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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Are you aware of the Department of Public Safety's Designated Driver Program this holiday season?

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INSIDE



Playing Santa
The U.S. Coast Guard delivers holiday donations to Yap atolls.
LOCAL...Page 16



DADT Repealed
Obama signs a new law that will allow gays in the U.S. military.
NATION...Page 22



Bush Library
Electronic information dominates George W. Bush's archive.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 26

ACCT announces vacancy for NMC president. PAGE 6
Form out for those seeking waiver on advance parole fee. PAGE 9

ECONOMIC CRISIS OR NOT

Holiday shopping goes on

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sebastian Tajibmai, a Tanapag resident, fills a shopping bag with gifts for his children, godchildren and relatives despite what he said was a 50-percent cut in his budget for the holidays amid work hour cuts and a continuously shrinking CNMI economy.

"It used to be that I would just grab anything from the store and fill a shopping cart for my kids. This year, I really

have to check the price tags first. I have to do it or I won't be able to buy gifts
See HOLIDAY on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A boy picks a toy for himself at the Lollipops Store in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

BEFORE YEAR ENDS Fitial to issue written SOCA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Instead of the annual State of the Commonwealth Address before a joint session of the Legislature, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will only be issuing a written report on the current affairs of the is-

lands before the end of the year to comply with the Constitution.

"Since a SOCA was not called to order by the Legislature, the governor will be submitting his written report accordingly," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

See FITIAL on Page 4



RIDING WITH SANTA

Shoppers young and old like this young girl are treated to a sleigh ride and have their photos taken with Santa Claus at the Duty Free Shoppers Galleria in Garapan on Wednesday night. Despite the dwindling economy, retail stores on Saipan are still teeming with last-minute Christmas shoppers.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

DNA says new human relative roamed widely in Asia region

By MALCOLM RITTER
AP SCIENCE WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Scientists have recovered the DNA code of a human relative recently discovered in Siberia, and it delivered a surprise: This relative roamed far from the cave that holds its only known remains.

By comparing the DNA to that of modern populations, scientists found

ON THE NET

<http://www.nature.com/nature>

evidence that these "Denisovans" from more than 30,000 years ago ranged all across Asia. They apparently interbred with the ancestors of people now living in Melanesia, a group of islands northeast of Australia.

There's no sign that Denisovans mingled with the ancestors of people now living in Eurasia, which made the

See DNA on Page 4

Local

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LOLLIPOPS

'Hope, joy, better new year in the holidays and beyond'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All that CNMI elected officials want for Christmas are the same things their constituents want and need during and beyond the holidays—from sharing hopes and joys to working together to solve the crisis. Others' wishes are as simple as full 80 work hours per pay period and timely release of scholarship checks.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos said it's the

time of year when people "take on the traditions of Christmas that express blessing, selflessness, and hope."

"It is a time when we renew the strong spiritual values that have sustained our heritage throughout the years by our genuine care for one another. It is a time when we embrace the spirit of giving and sharing—a time that we profess upholding peace on earth and goodwill to all mankind," they said in a joint message.

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) wishes that in the coming months, "we as legislators will work together to solve this crisis we are in" and that the people of the Commonwealth have a "merry Christmas and a truly happy new year."

Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) wishes for the economy "to get better and to allow employees to complete 80 hours work" per pay period. "I wish for students to get

their scholarship money timely. I wish for world peace and for families to be happy and to believe in God," he said.

Besides wishing "good health" for everyone, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said people should remember that the holidays are "not about expenses and obligations for presents."

He said it is a "time to appreciate the people in our lives that make it worth living, a time to spend very precious what can never be taken back—our time—spend it with those you love."

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), for his part, wishes that the economy "will be prosperous and the hardships and burden on our people will be alleviated."

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said he and his wife Vicky and their family would like to wish everyone a "very Merry Christmas," and for everyone "to stay safe during the holidays."

See HOPE on Next Page

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Mochitsuki festival on Monday at the Paseo

Community members can look forward to a night of Japanese cultural celebration when the Japanese Society of CNMI and PDM Promoters Inc. bring to the

community the Japanese Mochitsuki & Culture Festival.

The festivities will be held on Dec. 27 from 5:30pm to 9pm at the Paseo de Mari-

anas in Garapan.

"This is a great time to enjoy and understand the Japanese culture during the holiday season," said Japanese Society vice

chair Yoichi Matsumura.

Matsumura said food stands, games, raffle draw, and Japanese performances, including a presentation from the Saipan Awaodori

Group, are already lined up for Monday's celebration.

The festival will be highlighted by the traditional mochipounding ceremony in Japan called mochitsuki.

Mochi is a Japanese rice cake made of glutinous rice, pounded into paste and molded into different shapes.

It is the traditional food for the Japanese New Year but is also eaten all year round.

Matsumura is inviting the whole community to participate in the various activities during the Japanese Mochitsuki & Culture Festival.

For more information, contact Matsumura at 322-8785.

HOPE

From Page 2

Benavente and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) also wished that "everything will be better next year."

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said if only he could wish that "at least for a day, people will be able to forget about their problems."

"It's hard for people, but we hope everything will get better," he said.

The governor and lieutenant governor said for many, "we also observe the holidays as a time of remembrance."

"We remember our blessings, accomplishments, and our triumphs throughout the year. We share memories of past holidays and old traditions. We share our joys, laughter, and good for-

tunes," they said.

Fitial and Inos said through deep cultural roots and family-oriented upbringings, people also remember loved ones "who are far from us and those we have lost."

"We remember our brave men and women who continue to defend our freedom. We pay homage to our heroes who have given their lives in the name of

ours. It becomes a special time for us to reach out to each other and acknowledge how much we have been blessed by the love of family and the gift of friendship with one another. As we observe this holiday season and gaze upon the beginning of a new year with renewed spirits, we wish you all the peace and

joy of the holidays. May the good Lord continue to grace us all with an abundance of good tidings," they added.

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Seasons Greetings

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HARDT EYE CLINIC

We're here to help and to answer any questions you may have, whether simple or complicated.

235-2030



Happy Holidays

From the Staff and Management of
McDonald's

Stores open at 6:30 a.m. to serve you on Christmas Day



Visiting children to get Saipan-da gift

The Marianas Visitors Authority will continue its annual tradition of greeting children arriving at Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day this year.

Each child age 11 and younger will be greeted by Saipan-da and given a

Saipan-da backpack as a souvenir of their visit. Two Chamorritas will join Saipan-da in welcoming visitors for the holiday rush.

"The December holiday season is one of our busiest peaks," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

"Giving a gift to young visitors at this time of the year makes a positive and lasting impression on the hundreds of families arriving over these two days."

Saipan-da, the panda-rhinoceros mascot, is widely popular with both children and adults. *(MVA)*

FITIAL

From Page 1

That report has to be submitted to the Legislature by Dec. 31.

"We certainly intend to do so. The bulk of the report had already been submitted on April 1st," Demapan added.

Fitial has been delivering his SOCA between April and June since he was first sworn into office in 2006. Fitial was re-elected last year and is serving his second term's first year, marked by partial payless paydays and a partial government shutdown, among other things.

While the Senate adopted a resolution in August calling for a Sept. 14 joint session to receive the governor's SOCA, the House never acted on the resolution until lawmakers forgot the matter.

The Constitution does not specifically require a joint session of the Sen-

ate and House to receive the governor's address, but it requires the governor to report "at least annually" to the Legislature regarding the affairs of the Commonwealth.

It has also become an annual tradition to hold a joint legislative session to receive the SOCA.

But even if there is no such call for a joint session, the governor is still required by the Constitution to report to the Legislature about the state of the Commonwealth.

If it were for Rep. Fred DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), he would like to have a SOCA required by law.

"Actually, there is no constitutional requirement for a State of the Commonwealth Address. Nevertheless, this requirement should be law," DeLeon Guerrero said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said, "It is nice that there is

going to be a report."

"But we all know what the real problem is and we know what's being asked of us now, that us lawmakers and the administration have to work together," he said.

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) does not mind not hearing or having a governor's SOCA this year, but would want the governor to do so before he submits his budget on April 1 next year.

Article III Section 9 (b) of the CNMI Constitution requires the governor to report "at least annually to the Legislature regarding the affairs of the Commonwealth and new measures that are necessary or desirable."

It also says the report "shall include a comprehensive annual financial report prepared in accordance with generally accepted governmental accounting principles."

DNA

From Page 1

connection between Siberia and distant Melanesia quite a shock.

It's the second report in recent months of using a new tool, genomes of ancient human relatives, to illuminate the evolutionary history of humankind. In May, some of the same scientists reported using the Neanderthal genome to show that Neanderthals interbred with ancestors of today's non-African populations. That might have happened in the Middle East after the ancestors left Africa but before they entered Eurasia, researchers said.

As for the Denisovans, the new work is probably just the start of what can be learned from their genome, said one expert familiar with the research. Eventually, it should provide clues to traits like eye and skin color, said Todd

Disotell of New York University.

"We're going to be able to piece these people together in the next few years from this genome," he said.

The existence of a new human relative was first revealed just nine months ago from a sampling of DNA recovered from a finger bone discovered in the Denisova Cave in southern Siberia. Researchers proposed the informal name Denisovans for them in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature, where they report the new results.

There's not enough evidence to determine whether Denisovans are a distinct species, the researchers said.

The genome, recovered from the finger bone, showed that Denisovans are more closely related to Neanderthals than to modern humans. That indicates that both they and Neanderthals sprang from a common ancestor on a different branch of the evolutionary family tree than the one leading to modern

humans.

Scientists have no idea what Denisovans looked like, said David Reich, a Harvard University researcher and an author of the new paper.

Apart from the genome, the researchers reported finding a Denisovan upper molar in the cave. Its large size and features differ from teeth of Neanderthals or early modern humans, both of which lived in the same area at about the same time as the Denisovans.

Neither the finger bone nor the tooth can be dated directly, but tests of animal bones found nearby show the Denisovan remains are at least 30,000 years old, and maybe more than 50,000 years old, Reich said.

Scientists found evidence that in the genomes of people now living in Melanesia, about 5 percent of their DNA can be traced to Denisovans, a sign of ancient interbreeding that took researchers by surprise.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sandy Beach Homes, LLC rep on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2010, Marianas Agupa will close this year with a "bang" featuring Michael Sablan, representative of Sandy Beach Homes, LLC, a developer of a \$28 plus million in housing development. The show is from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It also features reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, and former senator David

HOLIDAY

From Page 1

for everyone I want to give gifts to," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview right after doing his afternoon shopping at the Lollipops store along Beach Road in Garapan.

Some 30 minutes later, Tajibmai was again shopping for gifts—this time at the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe.

Tajibmai was just one of the hundreds of last-minute Christmas shoppers at some popular retail stores on Saipan yesterday.

Most of them were shopping not because of discounted prices a few days before Christmas, but because it was only yesterday that they were able to file for half-day or whole-day leave from work.

Dolly Muña, department store manager at Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe, said despite the economy and people's weakened buying power, they are still able to see crowded shopping floors this Christmas season.

"Sales are still good this Christmas season, although not as good as they used to be years ago. We would like to thank everyone for their continued patronage, for continuing to shop with us," she said.

Muña, who has been the department store manager at Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe for 33 years, said they extended the shopping hours by one hour since Dec. 15. Regular hours are only up to 9pm, but this was extended to 10pm to accommodate a surge of last-minute Christmas shoppers.

"From late afternoon to night, this is crowded. Everything sells like clothing and toys. We actually ran out of candy canes since Wednesday. It ran out early this year," she added.

Next door, BestSeller Bookstore manager Mary Lynn San Nicolas said "past years were better in terms of sales"—the same sentiment shared by other retailers.

But just the same, people still go shopping for gifts albeit with less money on hand.

"People are not spending as much but it's once a year so yes, despite cutbacks, people still buy gifts because the spirit of Christmas is about giving. And people, especially the kids, expect gifts," she said.

Douglas Hanson, store manager at Joeten Ace Hardware for six years now, said December remains the busiest month of the year, although the customer traffic was not as huge as they were in years past.

Business gross revenue or the total sales reported by businesses in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2008 covering the holiday season reached \$420.42 million. This dropped to \$388.14 million in 2009, and is expect-

M. Cing on Tinian. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. *(PR)*

Fishery meeting

There will be a Fishery Management Meeting on Dec. 28, 2010, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 6pm to 8pm, to provide the public information on the federally mandated Annual Catch Limits and Catch Shares with regard to the CNMI's Management Unit Species and to receive public comments and concerns. For more information, contact Richard B. Seman at 484-4986 or Jack T. Ogumoro at 287-9482. *(PR)*

ed to be lower this year.

The CNMI government's budget has also been shrinking, from over \$200 million some five years ago to only \$132 million this year.

Paul Pedro, a resident of As Lito, came out of the National Office Supply store along Beach Road in Garapan with gifts for his sister, brother and other relatives.

"One gift for each family – I think that's enough. Every Christmas, it seems I never have enough to give to each one of my family and relatives. But despite the economy, it's always good to give. It's not the price of the gifts, but the thought," he said.

Valerie Reyes, who also did her last-minute Christmas shopping at the National Office Supply, said it was only yesterday that she could find the time to do her Christmas shopping. She is a full-time student at Northern Marianas College.

About an hour earlier, she was also at the Lollipop Store, which also extended its store hours to 11pm, instead of only up to 9pm, for holiday shoppers.

She said she had to increase her budget for gifts this year as there are more family members to give gifts to.

"I bought gifts for my daughter, nieces, nephews, brothers, parents, relatives...you name it," the Lower Dandan resident said.

What's good about her shopping was that she was with her sister, Verna, who lives in As Lito.

"It's good to have someone to go shopping with you. Us, we ask each other's opinion, especially on clothes. We're also car pooling, especially now that gas prices continue to go up," Verna Reyes said.

Minutes later, a mother and her son came out of the store empty-handed. The mother told her son, "We'll find the right toys, okay?"

Ana Kaniki, a resident of Dandan, not only bought gifts but also shopped for grocery items at the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe. She said people should take advantage of the holiday sales.

"People have less money but the Christmas spirit of giving is still there," she said.

Others have gone the extra miles to stretch their hard-earned dollars. One of them was Marianne Teregeyo, an employee at the Department of Land and Natural Resources. She said she did her Christmas shopping last week in Guam, where she was able to buy more gifts for her limited budget. She said the air fare and the effort were worth the Thursday to Friday trip to the neighbor island where there are a lot more stores to choose from.

"When you have limited shopping money, you tend to be more creative. In the end, we were able to buy more," she added.

The Saipan Tribune will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24, and next Friday, Dec. 31, in celebration of Christmas and the New Year.

There will therefore be no newspaper on Saturday, Dec. 25, and next Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

The Saipan Tribune Person of the Year and Year-end Reports will be published in the Dec. 31 edition of the newspaper.

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

PSS rewards school principals with gift certificates

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public school administrators received an incentive for the hard work and sacrifices they demonstrated throughout the year in the form of gift certificates from the Public School System.

The certificates, amounting to \$50 each, were provided to all school principals on three islands during last week's principals' meeting.

Saipan Tribune learned that Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan handed out the gift checks to some recipients during the occasion. Others have yet to pick up theirs.

A total of \$1,000 was approved as a small emergency purchase order for JC Tenorio Enterprises Inc.

The "gift" was described as an

incentive for the school administrator's professional development and was sourced from the system's local funding.

Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison said he will use the certificate to replenish the coffee in the school's faculty lounge.

Garrison described the reward as a simple token and the system's show of appreciation for the dedication of administrators.

He shared that last week's principals' meeting will be the last monthly gathering for school administrators following a decision to hold the principals'

meeting every quarter starting in 2011. The decision is in relation to the system's aim to save on cost and other resources. Saipan Tribune learned that team building games were among the highlights of last week's event.

Other school principals interviewed yesterday said they

will use the incentive to procure additional materials for their teachers such as staplers, white board markers, and pencils. They commended Sablan for recognizing the dedication of school administrators to achieve the system's goal and mission of Students First.

Despite the island's ailing economy, principals described the year 2010 as a successful year for the school system—both in accomplishing academic results among students and securing financial assistance from the federal government and other sources.

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Merry Christmas



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Mochitsuki is the traditional mochi (rice cake) pounding ceremony. Kids and adults alike are invited to join in pounding the mochi with the heavy kine (wooden mallet). Let's join pounding mochi! and try freshly made Mochi!!



Food Stand: Mochi, Tonjiru, Azuki and more!!!
Culture Stand: Origami, Stilt, Hanetsuki, Kendama, Begoma, Syodou
Game Stand: Shooting, Water Balloon Shooting, Ring Toss, and more!

FUKUBIKI (Japanese Raffle Game)
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5:30pm - 6:00pm Mochitsuki Performance
6:00pm - 6:30pm PDM (Awaodori)
6:30pm - 7:00pm Mochitsuki Performance
7:00pm - 7:30pm PDM (Japanese Culture Demo.)
7:30pm - 8:00pm Mochitsuki Performance
8:00pm - 8:30pm PDM (Japanese Culture Demo.)

December 27, 2010 5:30pm - 9:00pm

Japanese "Culture" Festa
in Paseo de Marianas

Sponsored by:
Kinpachi Restaurant,
Furusato Restaurant,
PDM Promoters, Inc. (A CNMI Non Profit Corporation)
Japanese Society of Northern Marianas



ACCT announces vacancy for NMC president

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Association of Community College Trustees announced on its website that it is recruiting a new president for the Northern Marianas College, a position the Board of Regents reopened to obtain a fresh pool of applicants.

At the same time, in its meeting Wednesday the board adopted a resolution creating a new presidential search committee, whose members will soon be identified.

ACCT is a non-profit educational organization of governing boards representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States and beyond.

ACCT vice president for research and board leadership services Narcisa Polonio was listed

on the site as the contact person for those who want to apply for the NMC presidency. The deadline for submission of applications is on Jan. 10.

NMC, which has yet to issue any announcement for the position on its own website, has yet to respond yesterday to a *Saipan Tribune* inquiry about the ACCT announcement.

The board earlier disclosed that NMC will continue to seek ACCT's assistance in the recruitment process for the college's next chief executive officer. Sources said the organization had offered its services for free but a minimal cost may be incurred for the background check on candidates.

The board intends to name a new president by the end of January 2011.

The position has been vacant since Jan. 12 when the board suspended and later terminated

Dr. Carmen Fernandez for violating college policies. A case is pending in court.

The ACCT website stated that the search process encompasses some steps and is designed to respond to the needs and culture of the college.

"Our process builds confidence in the process and ultimately the leader selected by the board," states the ACCT website.

NMC has had seven presidents in the last 10 years. This instability is putting the college's accreditation in peril. At present, NMC is on show-cause status following issuance of 10 new recommendations from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Its fate—removal from show-cause and placement in another sanction; continued show-cause; or revocation of accreditation—will be decided after the commission's assembly next month.

Library closed on Wednesday for inventory

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Patrons of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will only have two days to visit next week as it is scheduled to carry out a long-overdue inventory.

Children's Library Associate Erlinda Naputi said that the public library will be open next week on Thursday and Friday only, from 9am to 5pm.

Regular schedule for the public library is from Wednesday to Saturday.

Naputi told *Saipan Tribune* that they decided to close the public library on Wednesday, Dec. 29, to do their book inventory.

She said the library staff will come in from Monday to Wednesday to weed out outdated books and update their book count and records in order to finalize and resolve overdue book accounts.

"We can't really have a conclusive overdue account report unless we conduct the inventory," she said.

Naputi noted that a book inventory should be done at least annually. The last time they did one, though, was in 2005.

Information Technology Center coordinator Roy Rechebei said that doing an inventory should be an uninter-

rupted process.

"Normally, when inventory is done, it requires for the facility to be shut down. But in these hard economic times, we try to provide services to library patrons as much as we can," he explained.

Since the year is about to end, Rechebei said they decided to close the library for at least one day for the inventory.

Naputi pointed out that library patrons that have book return due dates on Wednesday may return the books the following day; late fees will be waived for those borrowers.

Naputi said the public library will be closed for two consecutive Saturdays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, to observe Christmas and New Year's Day.

She also noted that there will be no BookMobile schedule for next week.

Kilili to ask Congress to directly allocate CIP monies to schools

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan will ask his colleagues in the U.S. Congress to allocate the next capital improvement project funds for the CNMI to the Commonwealth's Public School System so it could build badly needed classrooms for its growing number of enrollees.

Sablan proposed this after finding out that the inmates of the islands' prison have better facilities than schoolchildren in public schools.

Sablan, during Wednesday's ribbon-cutting rites on Capital Hill, disclosed that the CNMI has over \$50 million in unused CIP money—a huge amount that, if expended, can build more schools and infrastructure.

"We have over \$50 million in CIP money that has not been spent by the government. So I am going to ask in Congress—through changing some language—to provide the next CIP funds for NMI directly to

schools so we can build better classroom facilities for our children," he told the crowd.

Sablan said the CNMI also has the opportunity to access a \$15 million interest-free bond from the federal government for various school and community projects.

"This is interest-free and the federal government will pay for the interest...but we haven't done a thing about it," he added.

He asked parents to help him get the support of their individual lawmakers on this effort.

"I want you to help me parents...by calling your legislators on this effort. Our kids deserved to go to a better school. It seems that our inmates have better facilities than our kids...that's what we have today," he added.

There are 20 public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and majority of their facilities are in dire need of repair and rehabilitation. (*Moneth Deposa*)

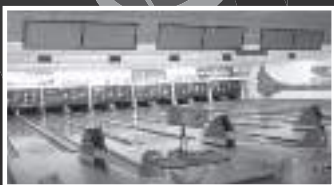
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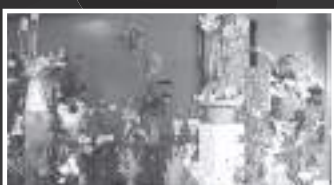
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NMI November visitor arrivals up 18 percent

» But 14 pct. below levels in 2008

November 2010 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 18 percent compared to November 2009, a significant gain on a low base month of arrivals last year, but still 14 percent below visitor arrival levels seen two years ago in November 2008.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 27,179 visitors last month compared to 23,008 in November 2009.

Arrivals from Japan rose 8 percent to 11,447 visitors, largely due to the addition of a third daily flight from Narita compared to November 2009, but still 35 percent lower than November 2008. This reflects the continued negative impact of the suspension of direct flights from Osaka and Nagoya. October to mid-December is considered a "death valley" period for travel, and flights from Nagoya and Osaka had been temporarily suspended in November due to seasonal demand, while one of the daily flights from Narita was cancelled several times during the month.

However, holiday flights from the two major cities have resumed in time for the holiday travel season. To help increase visitor arrivals, the MVA has requested additional funding for incentives that would help keep Nagoya and Osaka daily flights in operation year-round.

Meanwhile, arrivals from the primary market of Korea posted another month of gain at 10,428, jumping 51 percent in November 2010 over November last year. This large increase was due to Asiana Airlines' upgrading of the aircraft used for the morning flight from Incheon from an

9 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Wing Beach, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico dump, Hafa Adai Hotel, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach drainage, and Sugar Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Airbus 321 with 177 seats to a Boeing 767 with 250 seats from Nov. 1. Korean arrivals have been consistently higher since December 2009, reflecting Korea's recovery from the global economic crisis and the continued growth of this key market for the Northern Marianas.

The secondary market of China saw 2,346 arrivals in November, a 14 percent decrease over the same month last year. The number of air seats from China also decreased in November.

The number of visitors from the United States nearly doubled to 993, bolstered by two military ship visits. Arrivals from most other markets were down, including a 23 percent decrease from Russia to 288 visitors.

Meanwhile, due to delays in budgetary allotments, the MVA continues to operate in baseline mode, reducing promotional programs in order to prioritize payments for promotions already completed. (MVA)



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Seminar prepares OFWs for return to PH

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 150 workers attended the orientation-seminar on the National Reintegration Program for Overseas Filipino Workers at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Dec. 19.

The reintegration advocacy program was organized by the Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office on Saipan in celebration of the Philippine Department of Labor's 77th anniversary celebration.

The National Reintegration Program was created to prepare Filipino workers and their families for their eventual return to the Philippines.

"It was a successful event because these individuals who attended the event on Sunday expressed genuine interest in the program and the desire to increase their awareness on reintegration benefits," said labor representative Carmelina F. Velasquez.

The seminar featured presentations about migration realities, financial planning, going into business, different types of business opportunities, as well as testimonials from Filipinos on Saipan who have successfully established their own businesses in the Philippines.

While the reintegration program is being conducted in all POLO posts, Velasquez said the program is especially significant for Filipino workers in the CNMI due to the uncertainty of



Over 150 workers attend the reintegration-seminar for overseas Filipino workers at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Dec. 19.

their status since the implementation of federalization in 2009.

"Reintegration is the thrust of our new administration and so we want to put emphasis on this program for the benefit of Filipino workers," she added.

Velasquez told *Saipan Tribune* a the distinctive element of the program is promoting values formation among Filipino workers and their families to achieve their set goals.

The labor representative believes that understanding and appreciation for their reintegration advocacy efforts has increased based on the number of participants in their livelihood modules and skills classes they administer.

In fact, Velasquez said participation has increased three-fold compared to last year's numbers.

"This is not something new to our workers. Now more than ever, they recognize the relevance of this reintegration advocacy. We are happy because we have achieved more than our target," she added.

Velasquez disclosed that plans are already in the way to create small group discussions on specialized business opportunities.

"Saipan is now at a level where workers are done with the training after all the classes they have taken. They now need to apply the skills they have ac-

quired," she said.

Velasquez said they already have the flyers and materials for different business opportunities like Internet and computer services, poultry raising, and meat processing.

She said they only need to identify qualified lecturers that have the technical know-how and will train Filipinos on Saipan who are interested to learn more through these focus groups.

Velasquez said they also sought the cooperation and support of community leaders in disseminating information to help increase awareness on reintegration programs among Filipino workers on island.

Invitation to Christmas Eve and Sunday services

IUMC children's first step in preparing for Christmas are gifts of toys for Saipan children who might not receive. This is their gift to Jesus. The manger and nativity figures they've made are behind, ready for retelling on Christmas Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa is preparing for its Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 8pm, preceded by potluck dinner at 6:45pm. The family-oriented service will end with candle lighting while singing *Silent Night*.

Pastor Millie Carroll said, "The December 26th Christmas Sunday 9am service will be especially family-oriented. The children have made their own nativity under the direction of their teacher, Pam Carhill. Adults will also participate in the Christmas pageant but it will mainly be the children retelling the Christmas story through Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the shepherds, wise men and others they've made."

At the Christmas Eve Service, if people wish, they can share in the opportunity of the special offering for Saipan's shelter for women and children affected by domestic violence, Guma Esperansa.

Immanuel United Methodist Church warmly welcomes all to these services. IUMC in Chalan Kanoa is on Chalan Kanoa Drive (east of Town Center and Beach Road, near Mt. Carmel Cathedral.) For further information, call 322-6158. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 24, 1998

Law raises poker fees by 33%

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday signed a bill into law raising by 33 percent to \$8,000 the license fees for poker and pachinko slot machines on Saipan in a second round of increase aimed at boosting floundering revenue collections. The additional \$2,000 on license fees came after the Legislature removed restriction on the number of poker machines authorized to operate on the island. The administration agreed to lift the cap provided that the annual fee for a license will be pegged at \$8,000.

Funds delay police academy training

A federally-funded program creating 45 new police officers in the Northern Marianas has been placed on hold following delay in appropriating local money to train recruits of the Department of Public Safety, officials said yesterday. But Mike Sablan, special advisor for finance and budget, said some \$235,000 was obligated by the Tenorio administration last September to fund the required training despite failure to include the expenses under the current fiscal budget. "That is a priority project," he said in an interview. "It will beef up our law enforcement agencies, reduce overtime pay and pump money into the commonwealth." Denying they have yet to provide necessary funding, Sablan said: "I'm surprised that there is a hold up."

Dec. 24, 1999

Bill identifies scope of 'public purpose' expenditures

Tents, decorations and other expenses for funerals, death anniversaries and novenas will be included under an amendment to the "public purpose" law that has been a source of rift between the Legislature and the finance department. Under a bill offered by Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, these expenditures incurred by lawmakers will be charged to their government accounts provided they are not for political or personal gain. The changes to the existing law will also include gifts given to the elderly during celebration of Man 'Amko Week, food, beverages and related expenses in hosting meetings, conferences and other activities for the benefit of the public.

DOI's help sought for regional carrier

Senators have asked the assistance of the U.S. Department of the Interior in drumming support from other federal agencies that could help the CNMI and other Micronesian islands establish an alternative regional airline. The move is part of the efforts by island leaders to seek other carriers to service the Micronesian region following cutback in direct flights by Continental Airlines from key Asian destinations. In a resolution, the Senate urged DOI's Office of Insular Affairs to coordinate with the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies in seeking alternate airlines for the CNMI for both domestic and international routes.

Dec. 24, 2002

Interim dumpsites OK'd for Rota

The Division of Environmental Quality has issued an emergency permit for the Emergency Management Office to operate temporary dumping sites for super typhoon Pongsona's debris on Rota. In response to a request from EMO Director Rudolfo Pua, the DEQ allowed the use of four areas-the Commonwealth Ports Authority airport property, an area besides the Northern Marianas College, the Pali area, and the Pugua or Gagani area-as temporary dumping sites for the typhoon's wreckage. Based on the permit issued by the DEQ, green wastes are accepted in all dumping sites, while construction and demolition debris, hazardous household wastes and white goods are only accepted at the debris storage sites at the airport and near the college.

Ban on big fishing nets pushed

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources yesterday insisted that the proposed regulation to ban big fishing nets is needed to protect the islands' reef fish. In a press statement, DLNR Secretary Tom Pangelinan chided Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero who had introduced a bill at the Legislature against banning the use of fishing nets for noncommercial purposes. "It appears that Senator Guerrero is confused. DLNR's authority to promote conservation and regulate certain types of fishing does not come from either Public Law 12-12 [known as the Managaha Marine Conservation Act] or P.L. 12-14 [Fair Fishing Act]," Pangelinan said.

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Form created for those seeking waiver on advance parole fee

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has created the fee waiver request form that will facilitate the fee waiver request process for applicants that do not have the ability to pay.

Form I-912 or the Request for Fee Waiver is a form that asks for a fee waiver for certain immigration benefits and services based on an inability to pay, to be determined by a series of steps that identify the applicant's financial condition, making the applicant eligible for the fee waiver.

The fee waiver form is one

of two new forms published by USCIS along with the adjusted fee schedule last Nov. 23.

USCIS Customer Assistance Office supervisor Annette V. Speaks informed United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed about the availability of the new form in a letter dated Nov. 23.

Syed wrote to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano to waive the \$360 fee for Form I-131 or the advance parole fee for guest workers in emergency situations due to the bad economic situation in the CNMI as well as for humanitarian reason.

Speaks initially responded

in a Nov. 4 letter that a waiver on the advance parole fee in emergency situations requires amending the law and should be taken up with Congress.

In her latest letter to Syed, Speaks clarified that USCIS is the authority on regulations and policy guidance for required fees and granting fee waiver. She said the matter does not require a statutory change.

"While individuals are of course free to contact Members of Congress as they may see fit, it is not our intention at USCIS to create any appearance of recommending whether they do so or not regarding any particular matter of policy or possible leg-

islation," she added.

In an interview, Syed said he is happy about this development and thanked USCIS,

Homeland Security, and the Department of the Interior in their efforts to facilitate the request process for guest work-

ers in the CNMI.

"It will certainly help alien workers to pursue the fee waiver if they are under special circumstances. It will open a new door for the alien workers," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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How Obama's move to center looks so far

By CARL LEUBSDORF
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

The fallout from the recent debate over extending the Bush tax cuts has helped President Barack Obama counter the conservative myth that he's a left-wing ideologue seeking to socialize the United States.

At the same time, Obama's success in winning inclusion of some significant provisions sought by fellow Democrats and his stance on two important social issues shows how silly it is for some liberal dissidents and pundits to liken him to the weak, yet often rigid approach of President Jimmy Carter.

Presidents often are defined as much by their friends as their enemies. And the bitter, last-ditch opposition by House Democratic liberals to tax bill provisions aiding wealthier taxpayers will help Obama reoccupy the crucial center of American politics.

That's always important, but perhaps more so for Democratic presidents than Republican ones. Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush took advantage of the fact there are more conservatives than liberals to base their electoral strategy on the solid support of the right, adding enough moderates to achieve a majority.

Democrats don't have that luxury, though many of the party's most outspoken liberals seem to have trouble understanding that. As a result, its leaders need to keep the left satisfied while they craft policies aimed at the center.

That's how all three recent Democratic presidents won or retained the White House, though all three initially took advantage of the failures of incumbent Republican presidents. It's how Bill Clinton rebuilt his political strength after the big GOP congressional election victory in 1994 and how the tax bill compromise is enabling Obama to do so now.

Carter, essentially less liberal than Clinton or Obama, sought to follow a similar path but was undone by the devastating combination of soaring inflation, the Iranian hostage crisis that came to symbolize his weak international image and his alienation of the party's left at a time it had a champion willing to take him on in the late Sen. Edward Kennedy. Still, even Kennedy couldn't wrest party control, though he weakened Carter enough to ensure his general election defeat.

As for Obama, the fervent denunciations over the tax bill were hardly the first time the Democratic left has faulted him as too prone to abandon the liberal orthodoxy they thought he would bring to the presidency.

It also happened when he accepted tax cuts as a significant portion of the 2009 economic stimulus in a futile bid for GOP support; refused to make what would have been a losing fight for the "public option" on the health care bill; and coupled withdrawal from Iraq with the dispatch of more troops to Afghanistan.

To some extent, the liberal complaint on the tax bill was both that he agreed to accept compromise to achieve a greater end and that he did so without first waging a bitter battle for Democratic principles.

But on both the public option on the health bill and the estate tax provision in the tax bill, Obama was simultaneously acknowledging political reality and reaching out to independent voters.

At the same time, in the aftermath of the tax bill's passage, he has shown he won't abandon liberal causes that are both achievable and politically helpful.

See HOW on Next Page



For the TSA, all risks are created equal

By IAIN MURRAY
(C) 2010, COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

John Pistole, the head of the Transportation Security Administration, recently told *The Atlantic* in an interview that "we'll never eliminate risk" of terrorist attacks on aviation.

He's right, which is why the TSA's policy of treating everyone as an equal risk is so misguided. It has led to the outrages of the past few weeks and the public backlash against the TSA. We need to scuttle the TSA's equal-risk policy in favor of one that concentrates on genuine potential risks.

Reading the interview, one is struck by how reasonable Pistole sounds, presenting the TSA's current policies as the best we can do in trying circumstances.

The trouble is in the policy's application. The individual performance of TSA officers is highly variable. They possess extreme discretionary powers, but there is little to no recourse for passengers who have bad experiences. Even worse, TSA officers essentially have power without responsibility.

That is why a woman can get harassed for attempting to follow the rules on breast milk screening and a menstruating woman gets selected for additional screening because of her panty liner, while a TV reporter can get through security with two 12-inch razor blades sitting snugly in his pocket. It is also why an ex-Playboy model in a wheelchair wearing nothing but lingerie got enhanced pat-downs twice in one week and a former "Baywatch" actress was singled out for additional screening.

The case of the "Baywatch" actress is particularly interesting for the TSA's response. An agency spokesman said that "people who are celebrities shouldn't be surprised if and when they're recognized." This makes no sense. If they're recognized as not terrorists, then why should they have to go through enhanced security without additional information that they may be a threat? Perhaps terrorist "chatter" that day suggested that a former "Baywatch" star might be planning a mid-air atrocity, but I seriously doubt it.

To end these outrages and to bring accountability back to airport screening, the TSA's monopoly as a nationalized screening industry must end. A 2007 study for the TSA found that private screeners consistently outperformed the TSA bureaucrats, so the TSA suppressed it, earning the agency censure from the Government Accountability Office. Airports should be allowed to opt out of the federal system and hire their own screeners, who will be more responsive to customers, and must comply with federal regula-

tions in any event.

In addition, to cut down on lines and speed up the process, certain categories of passengers should be given a degree of dispensation from screening. As international security guru Edward Luttwak put it, "easily recognizable groups that not even the most ingenious terrorists could simulate" should not be viewed as equal in risk to others groups or individuals. Examples include "touring senior citizens traveling together (a category that contains a good portion of all American, European and East Asian tourist traffic), airline flying personnel who come to the security gate as a crew, families complete with children."

As Luttwak suggests, the critical question would be whether members of those groups "recognize each other as such."

Another solution would be the institution of a robust frequent-traveler system that would enable members who undergo extensive background checks to bypass security, or at the very least not have to remove shoes and belts before going through. Airlines, which employ up to 150 people each to run their frequent flyer schemes, could be given this responsibility to avoid it becoming yet another government bureaucracy.

The airlines would have a very real interest in ensuring their scheme members were not a risk; remember the fatal economic damage to Pan Am when one of its planes was downed in a terrorist bombing in 1988.

Removing large numbers of travelers from the pool of potential suspects would enable airport screeners to concentrate on those who might pose genuine risks. It would also reduce the number of agents needed, in turn enabling the hiring of more highly qualified personnel, who might treat people as customers rather than cattle. It would make Israeli-style screening far more achievable, something that might otherwise turn into a tedious box-checking exercise for the agents if it were implemented under the current security regime.

In the end, detecting terrorists at the airport could become more like detecting shoplifters. It would lead to an unpleasant experience for the guilty and a pleasurable experience for the rest of us. It might even attract people back on to planes and off the roads, where they are more likely to die in an accident, and reassure us that the federal government can read the Fourth Amendment. Even John Pistole might see the benefits of that.

Iain Murray is head of the Center for Economic Freedom at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, 1899 L Street NW, 12th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036; website: <http://cei.org>.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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From coconuts to coats

Santa isn't the only intrepid soul roving the earth right now. We had to assemble an express care package for a relative who grew up in Manila, took a job in Chicago, and promptly froze like a popsicle. And as Saipan's workers also venture out to find better opportunities, some in cold climates like Minnesota, the human popsicle routine is going to get repeated.

I grew up in a cold climate, and have had outside jobs in frozen places, so I got used to cold a long time ago. So I know it's got to be rough growing up in the tropics, then jumping to a place that gets colder than the inside of your freezer.

Saipan has a number of transplants from really cold places, including Alaska, so there are plenty of folks to ask for advice on the gig. If I hear from any seasoned cold-weather folks who want to share their wisdom, then, by golly, I'll pass it on to readers here.

As for me, I'm just a human pinball that gets bounced from the tropics to the cold and back again. The first time I went through this cycle I was caught flat-footed, and found myself in a stateside shopping mall needing a winter coat. Big mistake. I could either cough up \$500 at a high-end store, or get stuck with a mediocre coat displayed next to the home appliance section in a department store.

That's not a situation a new arrival in the cold would want to face. So a good strategy is to order a coat on the Web and have it shipped to someone in the states where you're heading.

Two venerated names in mail-order outerwear, L.L. Bean and Eddie Bauer, have good Web sites that deliver a lot of bang for the buck. (They also have brick and mortar locations.)

So, moving from Saipan to Sioux Falls? Manila to Minneapolis?

On a budget? No problem.

The money side of this is pretty easy: On a budget, an adequately good winter coat for most situations will cost about \$80 to \$100 from the places I mentioned, as long as the customer stalks their Web sites for a good bargain or sale. That's entry-level. Prices go up from there. Shipping and taxes can add to the toll. Everyone I know who tangles with cold climates is in the habit, year-around, of monitoring the Web for good sales.

A good choice for a coat is the legendary down-filled style. "Down" is a type of feather. It's light and fluffy. The fluffiness traps air and makes it a good insulator.

In the down kingdom, goose down is the favored species. Have you ever seen a cold goose? Me, neither. Still, even within the goose down realm there is a wide variance in quality.

The insulating efficiency of down is commonly measured by a "fill power" number, which is basically a measure of fluffiness. The higher the number, the better. Anything 550 or higher is OK in my book, but outdoor athletes (mountain climbers, hikers, etc.) will have greater demands than I do. Unfortunately, many coats don't say how much filling they put in, so the fill-power number only tells one part of an otherwise blank story.

Here are a few features to look for: (1) Big outside "patch" or "cargo" pockets, which can hold mittens and a hat and such, (2) a flap that snaps over the zipper, thus keeping out the wind and also serving as a backup for when (not if, but when) the zipper jams, and (3) a drawstring around the waist, which helps keeps body heat inside the coat.

One major factor is the shell (fabric). Lightweight shells are usu-

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



ally nylon or polyester, which is to say, synthetic. Heavier shells are often cotton-canvas, waxed cotton, or cotton/poly blends. People have such varying reactions to synthetic fabrics that nothing I could say would have any relevance to anyone else. So, I'm just drawing the distinction so you know it's out there.

A coat isn't the only thing needed for cold climates, of course. The cold especially likes to bite at our noses, ears, necks, faces, and fingers. Fortunately, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves are easy to buy. Knit wool is hard to beat. It's warm and it's cheap. Sporting goods stores are good places to check. And eBay has plenty of new stuff under 10 bucks. At least this can keep someone warm as they shop for more fancy stuff. Incidentally, my favorite gloves cost \$1.89.

Anyway, the good news is that nobody has to be a human popsicle when they leave behind coconuts for cold. The bad news is that I've focused merely on the relocation context. The travel context is far more challenging, since hauling a big coat on and off Saipan isn't practical. But that's a topic for another time.

For unto us a child is born

I recently joined a colleague over coffee and he asked me the question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" He apologized for asking the question of me but I inquired about employment at his agency and he was well within his right to find out as concretely as possible what exactly I was looking for.

I remember in the early '80s in Guam, my 10-year-old Manila-born daughter (Scot-German mother) who had already lived in Manila, Honolulu, Chicago, Saskatoon (Canada), and Majuro (the Marshall Islands), respond to the same question from her teacher. Without guile but responding from the context of her upbringing, she replied: "I am already grown up. I am now trying to get survival skills that will be helpful when I go to work in India." Ahead of her peers in experience, she traveled unaccompanied by the time she was 7 from Manila to Chicago, via gramps in Honolulu (of course, under the watchful care of an airline steward).

Her teacher called me one day to complain that my daughter tell tall tales in class and was reprimanded. Inquiring on what lies she was passing out, the teacher repeated my daughter's claims: that she previously lived in an eight-story building with more than a hundred rooms in Uptown Chicago, with 200 members of her family, and one of the guys who ran the elevator was a grandson of U.S. President Coolidge from Boston. She moved to an old three-story 20-room mansion in Saskatoon, and finally, got to Majuro where she greeted the chief government executive once a week.

I suppose she waited for me to express a deep sigh of exasperation, but when I didn't, she tried to be charitable by saying: "Your daughter has a very wild imagination."

She was also factual, I informed the teacher. Kemper Insurance donated an old building to an experimental family religious Order, that was converted into office and residential space in Chicago. The group registered as Order: Ecumenical with a secular program arm, the Institute of Cultural Affairs, concerned with the human factor in world development. An old but elegant funeral home was the religious house in Saskatoon, and while in Majuro, my daughter delivered the weekly paper to Oscar Debrum of President Amata

Kabua's office. It was the confident manner of my daughter's story telling that was awkward to her classmates' ears and made them uncomfortable. She had been living the "For Unto Us a Child is Born" story as her own!

The story for this time of the year in the Western world is the Christmas story. *For Unto Us a Child is Born* is sang or narrated in many formats on stage, radio, TV and coffee table conversations. It is a well thought through evangelical (good news) story of Jesus the carpenter from Nazareth playing the role of the messiah of Judeo expectations with a twist. Empowerment does not occur with the coercive scimitar of Davidic royalty, as commonly expected under the imperial dominance of despotic Rome, but with the wilderness exodus Mosaic understanding and the meaning from the Israelites sojourn in and out of the Babylonian exile that the force of the universe was already within and amongst us, *Emmanuel*. In the book of Esther of the Jewish bible, YHWH the symbol of the ineffable authentic life is not even mentioned; it is already assumed and taken for granted in the response-able decisions of its embodiers.

One of the Gospel of John's stories is that of Jesus asking the man by the pool of Bethesda if he wanted to get well. The sick relates his common excuse, that when the "angel" stirs the waters that could effect miraculous healing, someone else gets there before him. Jesus' succinct Eucharistic advice was: "Pick up your bed and walk!" Take, eat, drink—the body that is given for you—echoes throughout eternity since. Many have followed in the footsteps of the paraplegic. I should know.

Unfortunately, we have turned the metaphorical narrative into historical literalism so that "Christ" the salvific role is now thought of as the family name of Jesus, in the same way as "Buddha" has become the last name of the Siddhartha Gautama, turning both into Clark Kent personalities with super powers, albeit, exhibiting differing methodologies.

The dynamic of *for unto us a child is born* is being confronted by a message of truth: there is nothing in life that hinders anyone living the full depth, breath, and height of one's unique and unrepeatable life, save us one picks up what is given and freely

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



expend it in gratitude and compassion, and in Jesus' case, for the sake of another! We have turned the harbinger of the good news into an icon and often, as in the case in religious America, arrogant idolatry. We bog down on parochial dogmas and irrelevant beliefs, yet the moment we were conceived, we already received cosmic permission to live the full greatness of our lives. Theological terms like "incarnation" from ancient metaphysics are used, but we can hear the same reverent truth from the beat of a little drummer boy, *pa rum pa pum pum!*

The same tune may be heard from the "heavyweight of me" of Mohammed *I am the greatest* Ali, the earthbound endeavors of McKibben's *Eaarth*, the equanimity, majesty and tranquil poetry of Ellie Stock's music like *Stillness lingers in my soul*.

My daughter did make it to India, many times, in fact, working with colleagues in IT software development. She is now married, plies her trade around Chicago, and blessed with four boys, a grown-up one, her husband, their two cute toddlers who have made of me, her fourth, an apologetic (one grandson is bow-legged from my genes) and subdued *lao ye ye*.

To my colleague's query, I follow the spirit of my daughter's stock answer: "I am now grown up; I am going to teach."

HOW

From Page 10

Repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy for gays in the military gives him an achievement that, though coveted by party liberals, reflects changing national sentiment.

And his losing fight for the so-called DREAM Act to provide a path to citizenship via college or the military for the children of illegal immigrants both appeals to the growing number of Hispanic voters and casts Republican foes as rejecting this country's historic role as a global beacon of opportunity.

Many liberals seem afraid that the next two years will see Obama making other compromises with Republican positions. As the battles over "don't ask, don't tell" and the DREAM Act showed, that can happen only if enough Republicans abandon the negativism that has marked their last two years.

In either case, Obama comes out as the political winner at a time when a growing number of independents wants more cooperation and less ideology.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via e-mail at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.

Letter to the Editor

What a legacy!

Re: Rik Villegas' "The ghost of NMI yet to come": One could sense the conscientious and thoughtful assessment of your piece as it relates to the future of these islands. But even more concerning is the impending future of these isles amidst the obvious lack of direction from a leadership punched drunk to confusion by its mañana attitude, dragging governance to the abyss of unprecedented hardship. What a legacy! Indeed, it is very troubling and worrisome.

Perhaps it's about time that those who care about the future of posterity ought to proactively step forward to make a real difference. There's no more room to be serenaded to death by the same tired and irrelevant language of the past. It's time to move these isles

forward by featuring its educated people taking over the reins of power to guide governance out of slavery.






The two parties have exhausted their recycled tricks in the bag that only remind governance of the bad times resulting from failed promises. I'm sure our people won't be so forgiving beginning in 2012. Things must change for the better that is rooted in the simple folks who live in the villages. Let's take back our government. We deserve nothing less! *Felis Noche Buena yan Año Nuevo!*

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲84 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼62
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲29 ▼11
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲63 ▼41
Honolulu	Showers	▲78 ▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲36 ▼26
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲66 ▼49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲80 ▼56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼53
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲38 ▼24
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲41 ▼36
Paris	Snow	▲34 ▼25
Pusan	Windy	▲37 ▼21
Rome	Rain	▲57 ▼48
Salem	Showers	▲51 ▼44
San Francisco	Windy	▲61 ▼53
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲24 ▼12
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲47 ▼38
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲38 ▼29

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
10:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
4:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
8:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from north of Iwo To island at 25N140E to beyond 130 at 22N. Clouds and patchy rain are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of the cold front. Another cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N175E to northwest of Kwajalein at 15N164E. Extensive cloudiness, widespread rain and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the cold front east of Wake Island or east of a line from 15N168E to 25N175E. A near-equatorial trough reaches eastward from Mindanao through 7N130E to end at 4N146E. Scattered showers are present near the trough south of Koror within 95 miles of a line from 4N130E to 2N135E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Monday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Tuesday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:49 PM	8:55 AM
Saturday	9:48 PM	9:42 AM
Sunday	10:45 PM	10:27 AM
Monday	11:41 PM	11:10 AM
Tuesday		11:53 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Guam's Camacho moves forward with pay adjustments

» Attorney General's response clears way for pay adjustments government-wide

GUAM—Gov. Felix P. Camacho is moving forward with implementing pay adjustments as recommended by the Government-wide Position, Classification, Compensation, and Benefits Study Plan, pursuant to PL 30-196. The governor has further ordered all Cabinet members as well as DOA to begin the implementation of the program immediately.

Camacho's intention to move forward with the adjustments went into effect this past October though Executive Order 2010-24, but concerns from the Civil Service Commission requesting the Attorney General's opinion on the implementation delayed the governor's action. The AG's opinion has since been released showing that the governor's actions thus far on implementation has been consistent with law.

"Creating fairness and equity within the government has been a longtime goal of this administration," said Camacho. "I am pleased that the forthcoming adjustments have the full support of the Office of the Attorney General. However, I'm even more pleased that we are taking a huge step in ensuring equity and bringing our government up to date with the current market."

The implementation of these adjustments will be retroactive to Oct. 1, 2010, and will affect more than 5,000 classified government employees who will be transitioned into the

new pay structures as recommended by Hay Group Inc. These transitions may result in a pay increase for some employees while others remain status quo depending on where they fall within the new pay structures and according to Gubetnamenton Guahan Compensation Policies and Procedures.

While the adjustments only apply to classified employees, Camacho did submit Bill 469-30 to the Legislature that if passed will include unclassified employees into the new pay structure. The Legislature has yet to act on the bill.

"The government's pay scale hasn't been reviewed and adjusted in more than 19 years. The study shows that the market is about 59 percent ahead of our Unified Pay Plan. My decision is merely a step to rectify that for the betterment of our government and our employees," said Camacho.

According to the latest presentation by DOA, "The foundation of the compensation program is to attract and retain quality employees with competitive total compensation based on relevant labor markets. The program and its component plans will be based upon principles of fairness and equity and will be administered with sound fiscal discipline. The compensation program will reinforce a productive work climate, a culture of accountability and create the desire in employees to want

to progress in their careers with the government."

It has been nearly two decades since the Government of Guam last undertook a comprehensive classification, job evaluation and compensation study for positions covered by its Unified Pay Plan, as well as elected and appointed positions.

Following a competitive bid process, the government contracted with Hay Group to conduct a comprehensive study that examined whether the current classification, job evaluation and compensation practices were aligned with the Government's mission, vision, values and human resources objectives and redesign the job evaluation and pay plans. *(GovGuam)*



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Tan Holdings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas.

This year we join you in taking time to give thanks for the blessings of the year just passed, to rejoice in our children, and to enjoy the company of family and friends.

We look forward to working with our partners, organizations, and individuals in the new year of 2011.

On behalf of the management and employees of all our TanHoldings companies in the region,

Happy Holidays and a safe and prosperous New Year!

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NEWS BRIEFS

Change in Sabalu Market schedule

The Sabalu Farmers Market Association would like to inform the public that,

Due to the Christmas holiday, this week's Sabalu Market will be held on Friday, Dec. 24, instead of Saturday, Dec. 25. Likewise, due to New Year's Day, next week's Sabalu Market will be moved to Friday, Dec. 31, instead of Saturday.

This change of schedule is only for the Saturday market in Su-supe. The schedule for the Tuesday market in Garapan Fishing Base stays untouched.

For more information, contact Isidro T. Cabrera at 483-1785. *(PR)*

Santa goes to Scoops Dec. 24-25

Santa Claus is coming to Scoops in Gualo Rai, right next to Subway on Dec. 24-25.

The public is invited to bring their children for a photo opportunity with Santa Claus on Dec. 24, from 6pm to 8pm and on Dec. 25 from 12pm to 2pm.

Scoops will also be distributing free ice cream on Christmas Eve as well as gifts to children who will come. Offer is only good while supplies last.

Meanwhile, those who are still looking for their holiday presents, Foremost Scoops is offering two free \$5 gift certificates for every purchase of 10 gift certificates or one free gift certificate for a purchase of five gift certificates.

For inquiries, call Glimpses/Foremost Scoops at 235-7645. *(PR)*



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Advanced happy birthday to Arron Cushing, who will be turning 11 years old on Christmas Day, Dec. 25! Love, Mom, Dad, and your whole family.

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FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Govt agencies urged to work closely with IPS on ARRA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has urged all affected Executive Branch agencies that are prime recipients of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to fully cooperate with the private firm contracted to oversee the ARRA program in the CNMI, or their agency names will be identified in monthly reports to the governor and lieutenant governor.

The Fitial administration contracted in October the oversight, management, compliance, reporting and audit preparation functions to former Commerce Secretary Michael Ada's Integrated Professional Solutions LLC.

The \$392,406 no-bid, sole-source contract is for 18 months.

"Full cooperation will be expected. Agencies which fail to provide the required cooperation will be identified in monthly reports provided by the contracted firm to the Office of the Governor and the Office of Lt. Governor," Fitial said in a memo sent out on Wednesday.

Fitial said his and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos's office "expect that agency heads and relevant employees work closely with the contracted firm as it relates to the affected ARRA funds."

"As the proper expenditure of ARRA funds, timely reporting, and adherence to all local and federal regulations is of the utmost importance, non-compliance to this directive will not be tolerated," the governor added.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said there is no particular incident that prompted the governor to issue the memo.

"It was issued as a formality to establish the work flow between the government and its contractual agreement with IPS," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Fitial administration's contract award to IPS drew flak from the community, and has become a subject of review by the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor and U.S. Vice President Joe Biden's office, which oversees the ARRA program nationwide.

But the governor has been defending the contract award, saying Ada has an advantage among other possible bidders had the government bid out the management of the ARRA program because of Ada's extensive and historic knowledge of the program.

The governor said he won't allow the government to risk losing some \$100 million in ARRA funding just because there's no continuity of effective management of ARRA, which he said only Ada can provide.

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DSL, landline outage in CK

IT&E landline and DSL customers in the Chalan Kanoa area experienced a service interruption Wednesday afternoon as a result of an unplanned cable cut that occurred during a water line repair project.

The interruption occurred when the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. inadvertently sliced through the cables that provide DSL and landline services to residents of Chalan Kanoa. IT&E crews responded to the scene and restored service as of Thursday evening.

CUC was making an excavation early Wednesday morning to repair a water leak in Chalan Kanoa near the Head Start when it sliced into two cables (6 pair and 300 pair). As a result, William S. Reyes Elementary School and nearby homes and offices were without phone and DSL services.

CUC was able to complete the repairs to the ruptured water line by midnight Thursday. IT&E crews remained on standby until CUC completed the repairs.

Immediately following the incident, IT&E service crews opened a splicing pit to restore services to the affected customers and pressed on through the day until repairs were completed early Thursday evening.

IT&E is reminding all contractors, homeowners, and building owners of the importance of contacting IT&E prior to any type of digging.

According to IT&E Plant Technical Service manager, Velma Palacios, the CNMI has been experiencing a large number of unnecessary cable cuts to the fiber lines that connect the islands to the world. Oftentimes these cable cuts result in costly damage or service interruptions.

When a cut to the cable occurs, offenders are charged per P.L. 9-4, The Commonwealth Utility Damage Prevention Act of 1994. Palacios said that repairs carry a hefty price tag and deprive customers of their services.

"IT&E cables are not the only underground utilities (water, power, and sewer), and those services might also be jeopardized if they are unintentionally cut," said Palacios.

Unlike other telecommunication companies, IT&E does not charge a fee for cable location that occurs during regular business hours. IT&E is open from Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm.

For more information or to request a cable locate, call 611 or contact IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483). Customers may also see cable locate information in the 2010 CNMI Phone Book, which is available free of charge at IT&E Customer Service on Middle Road. (IT&E)

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Coast Guard cutter delivers holiday gifts to Micronesian atolls

APRA HARBOR, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* returned from a four day mission, Operation Santa Sleigh, to deliver holiday donations to the remote atolls of Ulithi and Woleai in Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia.

A combined effort from Coast Guard families, the Guam Naval Officer Spouses Club, and Boy Scout Troop 23 of Navy Base Guam collected nearly 1,000 lbs of goods including clothes, shoes, linens, camping equipment, and tools. The GNOSC also contributed \$1,000 toward the purchase of new items, including reef shoes, hygiene products, towels, and garden tools.

"I was very pleased with the effort of the crew and the community to help these islands during the holiday season," said

the *Sequoia's* commanding officer, Lt. Cdr. Matthew Salas. "Many of the islanders will find the items very useful."

Sequoia's first stop was at Ulithi atoll located 340 miles southwest from Guam. Using a small boat, crewmembers transferred the items to the main island of Falalop, the atoll's population center. *Sequoia's* crew were assisted by a group of Ulithi men to help with the transfer of goods. All of the donations were taken to a secure place at the local high school where the village chiefs from each island in the atoll would gather and distribute the items to the families.

For many of *Sequoia's* crewmembers, it was their first opportunity to visit such a unique island. As a staging point during World War II, Ulithi still had

remnants of U.S. military presence including the structure of an abandoned Coast Guard station.

Sequoia next anchored in the turquoise lagoon of Woleai atoll, located 370 miles South of Guam. The first crewmembers ashore were warmly welcomed by the village chiefs and the island community. Before the official welcome ceremony began, one *Sequoia* crewmember, Seaman Alexis Martin, was granted special permission by all of the chiefs to be allowed into the men-only assembly area where formal greetings were conducted.

"I felt very honored and privileged by the whole experience. I'm so glad I got to be a part of a rare moment," said Martin.

The Woleai island chief, Chief Francisco, thanked *Sequoia* for



U.S. COAST GUARD/LT. CMDR. MATTHEW SALAS

Chief Petty Officer Allen Hunter and Lt. j.g. Andrew Haley, crewmembers aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia*, inspect an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon in Woleai, Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia, Dec. 16, 2010.

their visit. Chief Francisco said, "I am very happy that the Coast Guard has not forgotten us," through an interpreter. It has been nearly 10 years since the last visit by a U.S. Coast Guard cutter.

Once the donations were brought ashore, they were immediately taken to the men's meeting area where they were evenly distributed to the families while the village chiefs from each island in the atoll observed.

After the distribution, the women of Woleai gathered in their colorful ceremonial dress to perform dances for the crew of *Sequoia*. Forty women cheerfully clapped and sang in unison to show their gratitude for the generous gifts.

During the short visit to Woleai, one of the villagers had asked if the *Sequoia* could replace the battery of their Emer-

gency Position Indicating Radio Beacon. Chief Boatswain's Mate Allen Hunter inspected the EPIRB and demonstrated the proper technique for testing and operating the device. The EPIRB was in fine working condition and operated normally. To promote safety, *Sequoia* also provided several adult and children's personal flotation devices to the villagers.

"The visit was truly heartfelt from both sides. This was an experience the crew will forever remember," said Hunter.

Sequoia carries out the Coast Guard's missions of Law Enforcement, Maritime Safety, Maritime Mobility, Environmental Protection and Defense Readiness in an area that spans the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. (USCG)

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that the Board will be meeting on Tuesday, December 28, 2010. The meeting will be held at the Secretary's Conference Room 2, Commonwealth Health Center from 2:30pm to 5:00pm.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 1. Roll Call
- II. Call to Order
- III. Adoption of Agenda
 1. APRN Emergency order
 2. NNAP Exam
- IV. Miscellaneous
- V. Adjournment

/s/ Aurelia G. Long, NP
Chairperson



E-2 CNMI Nonimmigrant Investor status for foreign nationals with long-term investor status

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services posted a final rule in the *Federal Register* that creates a nonimmigrant investor visa classification in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The "E-2 CNMI Investor Visa" allows foreign long-term investors to reside in the CNMI through Dec. 31, 2014, and is intended to help with the transition to U.S. immigration law in the CNMI. This final rule implements one of the CNMI-specific provisions of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, which extends the immigration laws of the United States to the CNMI. This rule temporarily resolves the immigration status of long-term investors in the CNMI and provides them time in which to obtain another lawful immigration status under the provisions of the Immigration

and Nationality Act. As with other immigration benefits, individuals must apply for E-2 CNMI Investor status.

Q. Why did USCIS create this rule?

A. As required by the CNRA, this final rule enables long-term foreign investors in the CNMI to apply for status as CNMI-only E-2 nonimmigrant investors. USCIS created this transitional regulatory provision because of the unique nature of CNMI investors who are not otherwise immediately eligible to obtain U.S. immigrant or nonimmigrant visa classifications.

Q. What is the CNMI-only E-2 nonimmigrant investor status?

A. The rule establishes a transitional status that does not exist anywhere else in the United States to temporarily resolve the immigration status of long-term

investors in the CNMI by allowing foreign long-term investors to obtain status to reside in the CNMI through December 2014.

Q. Why is this category temporary?

A. The CNRA only provided for this status during the transition period. The E-2 CNMI Investor status is intended to help with the transition to U.S. immigration law in the CNMI. These investors are required to obtain another U.S. immigrant or nonimmigrant visa classifications by the end of the transition period, or Dec. 31, 2014.

Q. What forms of work authorization are investors currently using in the CNMI?

A. Since the transition period began on Nov. 28, 2009, most investors are continuing to work under CNMI-issued "umbrella permits" or other CNMI work authorization permits issued

prior to that date. These permits are valid until Nov. 27, 2011, or their date of expiration, whichever is sooner.

Q. What are the existing foreign investor requirements under the INA?

A. Under U.S. immigration law, foreign investors may enter the United States as nonimmigrants within the treaty investor classification with an E-2 visa or may change to E-2 treaty investor nonimmigrant status from within the United States.

To qualify for E-2 treaty investor status, treaty investors must:

- Invest a substantial amount of capital in a bona fide enter-

prise in the United States;

- Seek entry solely to develop and direct the enterprise;

- Enter the United States according to treaty provisions;

- Be nationals of a country with which the United States has a treaty of friendship, commerce, or navigation; and

- Intend to depart the United States when their treaty investor status ends.

Q. What happens at the end of the transition period?

A. At the end of 2014, the transition period will expire and the E-2 CNMI investor status and visa will expire. Therefore, individuals in the CNMI with E-2 CNMI status must depart the CNMI at the end of the tran-

sition period or qualify for and obtain another nonimmigrant or immigrant status in order to lawfully remain in the CNMI.

Q. When does the transition period end?

A. The transition program will last through Dec. 31, 2014.

Q. Will any extensions of the transition period, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, affect eligibility for the CNMI-only investor visas?

A. No. The CNMI-only investor status ends at the end of the transition period. Any extension by the Secretary of Labor will apply only to the CNMI transitional worker category. As mandated by the CNRA, the in-

See Q&A on next page



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Q&A

From Page 17

vestor provisions will terminate on Dec. 31, 2014, regardless of whether an extension to the transitional worker provision occurs.

Q. What nonimmigrant or immigrant statuses can investors in the CNMI apply for?

A. That will depend upon individual circumstances. Investors who obtain the E-2 CNMI nonimmigrant investor status have until the end of 2014 to adjust or change their status. (Similarly, investors in the CNMI may apply for a nonimmigrant or immigrant status for which they qualify without first obtaining the E-2 CNMI investor status, however, they may not adjust status to a business based immigrant status without first obtaining an INA based nonimmigrant status.) Some examples of nonimmigrant or immigrant

status that an E-2 CNMI Investor may be eligible are:

- To qualifying for an L-1A nonimmigrant executive or managerial visa;

- Adjusting status based on the status of family members; or

- Qualifying under other investor or employment-based visas.

Q. What happens to dependents of CNMI E-2 Investors during the transition period?

A. During the transition period, dependents (spouses and children) can qualify for dependent status under the CNMI E-2 Investor final rule. Dependents will follow normal procedures with respect to extensions or changes of status for nonimmigrants.

Upon the end of the transition period, spouses and children also will be subject to the same regulations as other immigrants. For example, if the E-2 CNMI Investor qualifies for a change

of status to regular E-2 status at the end of the transition period, his or her dependents would have to apply for a change of status as well and qualify under those statutory and regulatory provisions.

Q. Who qualifies for the CNMI-only "E-2" nonimmigrant investor visa?

A. To qualify for E-2 CNMI Investor status, the primary applicant must:

- Have been admitted to the CNMI with a long-term investor visa under CNMI immigration law before Nov. 28, 2009;

- Have continuously maintained residence in the CNMI under long-term investor status;

- Currently maintain the investment(s) that formed the basis for the CNMI long-term investor status; and

- Otherwise be admissible to the United States under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act.

Q. Which current CNMI investor statuses qualify?

A. Individuals who were admitted to the CNMI in long-term investor status under CNMI immigration law qualify, specifically:

- A long-term business investor who was issued a long-term business certificate by the CNMI based upon an investment of at least \$50,000;

- A foreign investor with a foreign investment certificate issued by the CNMI based upon an investment of at least \$100,000 in an aggregate approved investment in excess of \$2 million or at least \$250,000 in a single approved investment; and

- A retiree investor over the age of 55 years who was issued a foreign retiree investment certificate based upon a qualifying investment in an approved residence in the CNMI

(but not including the two-year non-renewable retiree investor program limited to Japanese nationals).

Q. How did USCIS decide which categories will qualify under the final rule?

A. The CNRA refers to admission in "long-term investor" status under the laws of the CNMI when creating the E-2 CNMI Investor status. Only CNMI categories that mandated a fixed minimum threshold amount of investment and are renewable over a period of multiple years (long-term) were considered to be "long-term investor" statuses for this rule, namely the three categories listed above (long-term business investor, foreign investor, and retiree foreign investor).

Q. How many people are currently in these three CNMI long-term investor categories?

A. USCIS estimates that there are approximately 500 foreign-registered investors in the CNMI long-term investor categories.

Q. Which CNMI Investor categories are not eligible for E-2 CNMI Investor status under the rule?

A. Other investors, including the following, are not eligible for this E-2 visa under the final rule:

- The sub-category of the retiree investor specifically limited to Japanese retirees;

- Short-term business entry permits; and

- Regular-term business entry permits.

Q. Why is the sub-category of the retiree investor specifically limited to Japanese retirees not eligible for E-2 investor status?

A. The rule does not consider this category eligible, as these individuals do not classify as "long-term investors." The CNMI permit for the two-year program for Japanese retirees is

nonrenewable and only requires monthly rental payments rather than long-term investment.

Q. What can these Japanese retirees do once their permit expires?

A. By Nov. 27, 2011, or the expiration of the Japanese retiree investor's CNMI-issued permit (whichever occurs first), the individual must depart the CNMI unless he or she applies for and is eligible to remain in the CNMI under another lawful status.

Q. Why are individuals with short-term and regular-term business entry permits not eligible for E-2 investor status?

A. Foreign nationals lawfully admitted under the CNMI short-term business entry permit or the regular-term business entry permit categories are not eligible because these permits are not long-term and they do not require investments.

Q. If individuals with short-term and regular-term business entry permits are not eligible for an E-2 CNMI Investor visa, what can they do?

A. Individuals with short-term and regular-term business entry permits will not be eligible to obtain the E-2 CNMI Investor visa and therefore must depart the CNMI at the expiration of their CNMI issued status or Nov. 27, 2011, whichever occurs first OR apply for and obtain another immigrant or non-immigrant classification under the INA that permits them to remain in the CNMI.

Q. Will foreigners who had pending CNMI Investor applications on Nov. 28, 2009, be eligible for the new E-2 CNMI Investor status?

A. Foreign nationals who were not admitted as eligible CNMI investors prior to the beginning of the transition period are not eligible for classification as E-2 CNMI nonimmigrant investors.

See Q&A on next page

Have a Safe Holiday Season.

**National/CNMI Holiday Season
Impaired Driving Month
November 29, 2010 through January 3, 2011**



**DRUNK DRIVING
OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.**

**BAM! YOUR
LIFE JUST
CHANGED.**



Drive drunk and you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.



RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Special meeting Monday, December 27, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. 60 Day Double Dipping
 - B. Pension Software Program
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Fiduciary Audit
 - B. AHO Contract Extension
 - C. Contract for Legal Services
 - D. FY 2011 Revised Budget
 - E. FY 2012 Budget
 - F. Fund Collection/WCC Contract Attorney
 - G. Disability – Update Certified List of Physicians
- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VI. MISCELLANEOUS
 - A. Announcements
 - B. Next Meeting
 - C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Therefore, individuals who had investor applications pending with the CNMI as of the transition program effective date are not eligible for E-2 CNMI Investor status.

Q. Is an individual with an approved investor application eligible for E-2 CNMI Investor status?

A. An individual who was not admitted as an eligible CNMI investor prior to Nov. 28, 2009, is not eligible for classification as E-2 CNMI nonimmigrant investor. Therefore, an individual who has an approved investor application but was not admitted to the CNMI as of the transition program effective date is not eligible for E-2 CNMI Investor status.

Q. What does the E-2 CNMI Investor visa requirement "continuous maintenance of residence" mean? What if an investor travels regularly outside CNMI?

A. "Continuous maintenance of residence in the CNMI" means residence in the CNMI from the date that an individual obtained his or her CNMI status through the date on which USCIS grants the new E-2 CNMI Investor status. This is not the same as continuous physical presence; therefore, an investor does not need to remain in the CNMI for the entire period in order to have maintained continuous residence. The rule provides, however, that an investor must be physically present in the CNMI for at least half the time for which continuous residence is required. Additionally, an individual will not maintain

continuous residence if he or she leaves the CNMI for more than one year or leaves the CNMI for more than six months and cannot demonstrate that he or she did not abandon his or her residence by this absence.

Q. Can an investor lose his or her status?

A. Yes, an investor could lose immigration status if he or she does not maintain the investment(s) that formed the basis for admission. To establish that an investor is maintaining the investment or investments that formed the basis for admission to the CNMI, the rule requires each applicant to provide specific evidence demonstrating that the investor is in compliance with the terms upon which the CNMI investor certificate was issued. Additionally, as previously mentioned, an investor can lose immigration status if he or she does not maintain continuous residence in the CNMI.

Q. What evidence must an applicant for E-2 CNMI Investor provide?

A. All documentation previously submitted in each investor application to the CNMI government should be submitted as part of each E-2 CNMI petition to USCIS.

All Individuals

All individuals must provide the following evidence of lawful admission to the CNMI:

- A valid unexpired foreign passport; and
- A properly endorsed CNMI admission document (e.g., entry permit, entry certificate or for-

eign investor visa) with a period of validity that includes Nov. 28, 2009.

Individuals with a CNMI-issued foreign investor entry permit or long-term business entry permit

An applicant with a CNMI-issued foreign investor entry permit or long-term business entry permit must submit evidence to show that he or she has maintained his or her investment with the E-2 CNMI Investor application. This evidence could include:

- An approval letter issued by the CNMI government;
- Evidence that capital has been invested, such as bank statements, receipts or contracts for assets purchased, stock purchase transaction records, loan or other borrowing agreements, land leases, financial statements, business gross tax receipts, or other agreements supporting the application;
- Evidence that the applicant has invested at least the minimum amount required, such as evidence of assets purchased or property transferred from abroad for use in the enterprise, evidence of monies transferred or committed to be transferred to the new or existing enterprise in exchange for shares of stock, any loan or mortgage, promissory note, security agreement or other evidence of borrowing secured by assets of the applicant;

- A comprehensive business plan for new enterprises;
- Articles of incorporation, by-laws, partnership agreements,

See Q&A on next page

December is C.N.M.I. AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

CHECK WHAT YOU CAN DO TO DEAL WITH HIV:

KEEP THE
PROMISE
NOW!



WORLD
AIDS
CAMPAIGN



- ✓ Get tested for HIV.
- ✓ Learn about your risks for getting HIV.
- ✓ Decide not to do the things that put you at risk.
- ✓ Practice safer methods to prevent HIV.
- ✓ Talk with family, friends, and colleagues about HIV prevention.
- ✓ Support people living with HIV.
- ✓ Volunteer at a local group that serves people living with HIV.
- ✓ Ask our leaders to increase their awareness and response to HIV.



For more Information, Testing and Confidential Services,
Contact the HIV/STD Resource & Treatment Center at 664-4050
www.avert.org/world-aids-day.htm www.worldaidscampaign.org www.aids.gov/world-aids-day/
Paid for with funds from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention

ROSHI'S Christmas Sale!

until December 31, 2010

Super Sale, prices you must see for yourself to believe! You won't believe our suprisingly amazing low, low prices!

Ladies Flat Sandals



NEW
ARRIVALS!

Girls wear set



NEW
ARRIVALS!

Boys wear set



NEW
ARRIVALS!

Girls Hannah Montana T-shirts



NEW
ARRIVALS!

Boys Character T-shirts



NEW
ARRIVALS!

Boys/Men Denim Shorts



NEW
ARRIVALS!

Ladies wedge slippers



Buy 1 Get
the 2nd
½ price off

Ladies Sandals



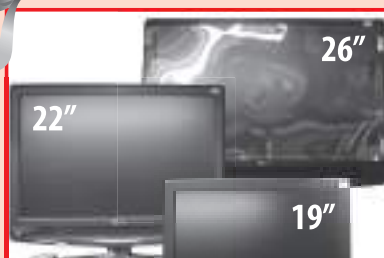
Sale price starting from \$5.00

Men's Zories



Buy 1 get 2nd ½ price off

Flat TV's



22"

26"

19"

Speakers



Sale price starting from \$24.99

Futons All sizes available



Sale price starting from \$24.99

Electric Fans



Major Credits Cards and Government Checks Accepted • Opens: Mondays to Saturdays - 9:00 am to 9:30 pm • Sundays - 10:00 am to 8:30 pm.

Q&A

From Page 17

joint venture agreements, corporate minutes and annual reports, affidavits, declarations or certifications of paid-in capital;

- Current business licenses;
- Foreign business registration records, recent tax returns of any kind, evidence of other sources of capital;
- A listing of all resident and nonresident employees;
- A listing of all holders of business certificates for the business establishment; or
- A listing of all corporations in which the applicant has a controlling interest.

For the holder of a certificate of foreign investment, copies of annual reports of investment activities in the CNMI showing that the certificate holder is under continuing compliance with the standards required. Each report must be accompanied by an annual financial audit report performed by an independent certified public accountant.

Individuals with a CNMI-issued retiree investor permit

CNMI retiree investors should submit the following with their applications for E-2 CNMI Investor status:

- Proof that the foreign applicant has an interest in property in the CNMI, such as a lease agreement;
- Proof of the value of that property, such as an appraisal; and
- Proof of any improvements

to the property, which could include receipts or invoices of the costs of construction, the amount paid for a preexisting structure, or an appraisal of improvements.

Q. When can individuals apply for E-2 CNMI Investor status?

A. Petitions for E-2 CNMI Investor status may be filed on Jan. 18, 2011. Any petitions received prior to Jan. 18, 2011 will be rejected. E-2 CNMI investors may apply for changes of status to any other nonimmigrant or immigrant visa classifications for which they may qualify anytime during the transition period.

Q. What is the final date that initial petitions will be accepted for the E-2 CNMI Investor visa?

A. The final acceptable filing date for initial E-2 CNMI investor petitions will be Jan. 18, 2013.

Q. What application must be submitted for the E-2 CNMI Investor visa?

A. The existing Form I-129, Petitioner for a Nonimmigrant Worker, with Supplement E is the application form used for requesting E-2 CNMI Investor status.

Q. What is the cost of the application?

A. The processing fee for Form I-129 is \$325. In addition, the biometrics fee for applicants present in the CNMI who are applying for an initial grant of status is \$85.

Q. Where should I file the application?

A. Most U.S. immigration applications, including the Form I-129, are filed by mail. Detailed instructions for each form, including the address to which the application should be sent, are found on-line at www.uscis.gov/forms. All E-2C petitions are filed with the California Service Center at: P.O. Box 10698, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-1098. All courier/express deliveries should be forwarded to 24000 Avila Road, 2nd Floor, Room 2312, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677.

You must be present in the CNMI or outside the United States at the time your application is filed with USCIS. If you are outside the United States upon approval, you will need to obtain an E-2 CNMI Investor nonimmigrant visa at a United States Embassy or consulate abroad to be admitted to the CNMI as an E-2 CNMI Investor.

Q. Is a fee waiver available?

A. Yes, the final rule allows the applicant to file for a fee waiver. If you wish to apply for a fee waiver, you must complete and submit a Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver with the Form I-129 petition.

Q. Why does the rule permit a fee waiver for an "investor" who would have to make a relatively significant monetary investment to qualify for the visa?

A. Waiver of the fee for fil-

ing Form I-129 is normally not permitted. However, USCIS is allowing a waiver limited to investors under this rule in the CNMI due to the current adverse economic conditions there and because of the retirees and proprietors of small businesses included in this new nonimmigrant category. The fee waiver provision is limited to those who show inability to pay. USCIS understands that some CNMI E-2 Investor eligible retiree investors may have invested the majority of their savings in their investment residences, may be living on fixed incomes, and may qualify for waivers.

Applicants in the CNMI who are applying for an initial grant of status must also submit the biometric service fee. This fee is waivable for inability to pay under current USCIS regulations.

Q. What can I do if my application is denied?

A. As with other adjudications of Form I-129, the denial of an E-2 CNMI investor application may be appealed to the USCIS Administrative Appeals Office for a review.

Q. Does immigration status extend to dependents of E-2 CNMI Investors?

A. The rule allows dependents of the principal E-2 CNMI Investor to accompany or follow-to-join the principal investor, irrespective of the nationality of these dependents. To qualify for this status, the spouse and children must be otherwise admissible to the United States under the INA. As outlined below, to obtain this status, a dependent living in the CNMI must submit a Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Status.

Q. How does a dependent (a spouse or child) obtain derivative E-2 CNMI Investor status?

A. If a dependent is living in the CNMI, he or she must submit a Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Status. The fee for this form is \$290, plus the biometric fee of \$85 if requesting an initial grant of status in the CNMI. Fee waivers are available for inability to pay. If abroad, the spouse and/or child should not file the Form I-539 but each dependent needs to apply for an E-2 CNMI visa at the appropriate U.S. embassy or consulate.

Q. For how long is the E-2 CNMI Investor visa valid?

A. The initial admission period is two years. Upon approval of their application(s) for derivative status, the spouse and minor children accompanying or following-to-join an E-2 CNMI investor would be admitted for the same period that the principal investor is in valid E-2 CNMI Investor status.

Q. What happens to dependents if an E-2 CNMI Investor temporarily departs from the CNMI?

A. The derivative status of the dependent spouse and children would not be affected, provided that the familial relationship continues to exist and the principal remains eligible for admission as an E-2 CNMI investor.

Q. How will work authorizations be handled?

A. All E-2 CNMI Investor principal and spousal employment authorization is limited to employment in the CNMI. Certain investors and their spouses will be eligible to work in the CNMI:

- The E-2 CNMI Investor is authorized to work for a specific employer determined by the long-term investor status under CNMI law on which the grant of E-2 CNMI Investor status is based.

- The spouse of an E-2 CNMI Investor may request employment authorization after he or she lawfully obtains E-2 CNMI Investor status and lawfully enters the CNMI. Spouses of E-2 CNMI Investors who initially had CNMI Retiree Investor Certificates are not authorized to seek employment authorization.

- Work authorization is not permitted for children of E-2 CNMI investors.

- Neither E-2 CNMI Investors with status under a retiree investment permit nor their spouses are work-authorized. Entering the CNMI as a "retiree" is inconsistent with obtaining employment.

The E-2 CNMI Investor principal's work authorization is employer-specific incident to the E-2 CNMI Investor status, so the principal does not need to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). The investor's passport and Form I-94 showing E-2 CNMI Investor status are acceptable forms of documentation to complete the Employment Eligibility Verification, Form I-9, when commencing any new employment authorized under that status. A spouse must apply for an EAD, using Form I-765, in order to be granted employment authorization. If granted an EAD, the spouse may use it as evidence of identity and work authorization for Form I-9 purposes with any employer in the CNMI.

Q. What happens if an individual changes employers without filing with USCIS?

A. An unauthorized change of employment to a new employer could cause the individual to lose lawful status.

Q. May E-2 CNMI Investors apply for extensions?

A. Yes. An individual may apply for an extension before the status expires. An individual with E-2 CNMI Investor status may apply for an extension until the end of the transition period.

Q. What will be required for an extension of stay?

A. To apply for an extension of stay, an E-2 CNMI investor must file a new Form I-129 and Supplement E with the required evidence and fee.

Q. Does this visa allow an E-2 CNMI Investor to travel elsewhere in the United States?

A. No. E-2 CNMI Investor status for long-term CNMI investors is a "CNMI-only nonimmigrant" status, and does not exist within the United States as

a whole. It does not authorize entry to Guam or to any other part of the United States. However, it does not bar travel if the investor is otherwise authorized and admissible to the United States in another status.

Q. What would happen if an E-2 CNMI Investor traveled to another part of the United States solely based on the CNMI-only E-2 visa?

A. Travel or attempted travel from the CNMI to another part of the United States without the appropriate visa or other authorization is a violation of the E-2 CNMI Investor status. If an individual fails to comply with the conditions of the E-2 CNMI Investor status, he or she would be deportable from the CNMI or any other U.S. location.

Q. Could an E-2 CNMI Investor travel outside the United States and then return to the CNMI?

A. Yes, the final rule allows for travel outside the U.S. However, individuals who are present in the CNMI under a CNMI-only nonimmigrant status who depart and desire to return in the same status must obtain a visa from the U.S. Department of State in order to be readmitted to the CNMI. Therefore, if an E-2 CNMI Investor obtained his or her status from USCIS in the CNMI, he or she would need to obtain an E-2 CNMI Investor visa from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to be readmitted to the CNMI, regardless of nationality. USCIS approval of E-2 CNMI Investor status provides status while present in the CNMI, but does not eliminate the requirement of a visa for admission to the CNMI.

Q. What is the process for obtaining a visa overseas?

A. Once USCIS approves a petition for E-2 CNMI Investor classification, the investor should apply for an E-2 CNMI Investor visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate with jurisdiction over their place of permanent residence.

Q. How many public comments were received in this rule making and were they taken into account?

A. USCIS received 13 comments. DHS and USCIS reviewed and considered each comment that was submitted. In one of the most significant changes resulting from public comments, the final rule reduced the minimum investment of a CNMI Long-Term Business Entry Permit holder with a CNMI Long-Term Business Certificate to \$50,000 from the \$150,000 threshold in the proposed rule. USCIS also clarified the manner in which E-2 CNMI Investor status will be granted directly in the CNMI using appropriate waiver authority under the INA, without requiring investors to travel abroad to obtain a visa in order to be admitted in E-2 Investor status. All comments received are posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, as part of the final rule.

Source: USCIS



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID

CUC-IFB-11-013 (RE-BID OF CUC-IFB-11-006)

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF POLE MOUNTED TRANSFORMERS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Pole Mounted Transformers for the CUC Power Division in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-013, Supply & Delivery of Pole Mounted Transformers", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 7, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid security may be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to CUC. The surety company shall hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **December 30, 2010** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. John Onedera, Power Division Engineer- johno@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ UTU ABE MALAE
Executive Director

To the People of the CNMI,

Please accept my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I express my heartfelt gratitude for all your kind patronage and assistance that was extended to me and to our company during the past year and we are definitely looking forward to your continued support this coming years as in the past.

For the past years I have learned many things from the Rota Casino industry and some of our business movement/project was misinterpreted as it had made many of the people concerned. I apologize for causing any inconveniences.

Also, I wish to say many thanks to the Mayor of Rota, Rota Gaming Commissioners and most especially to the peoples of Rota, Saipan, and Tinian who has been cooperative and who showed full support towards our project.

I don't want people to feel any disappointment to those who are involved in this casino Industry. I will try my best to improvement our management and increase the number of visitors to Rota & CNMI. The Tourist industry in the CNMI is most important and my principal is full of fighting spirit and to push forward to glory goals.

One of my mission is to contribute to the local economy growth. This means that at the same time my project will also be growing. The community and project should be made up from one mind and one mind only and of course head for the glory goal.

I'm really working hard in developing marketing strategies in Japan and other countries. I have strong strategies to improved Rota & CNMI economy.

However I would like to ask the people to be patient as this will take time, but I assure you that this will eventually boost up the economy. I've come to realize that there was some difficulty that I have to face once I stepped into the Rota Casino, but I decided to challenge it and eventually I had overcome this big obstacle.

However, I am confident that in the very near future, luck will blow over to my project and the CNMI tourism industry will prosper once again. I am very happy in working together with the people of Rota & the people of the CNMI. I hold many variety and unique improvement program for our industry.

Step by step this will work and of course performance is a key factor and also in facilitating our programs. We hope you will give this matter your best and kindest attention, to this; it will be my greatest appreciation.



Sincerely,

Masahiro Watanabe

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

From the staff and management of
Rota Treasure Island Casino



Business

Obama toasts 'season of progress' after big wins

WASHINGTON (AP)—Buoyant in political victory, President Barack Obama on Wednesday wrapped up a long, rough year in Washington by rejoicing in a rare, bipartisan “season of progress” over tax cuts, national security and civil justice. Halfway through his term, he served notice to his skeptics: “I am persistent.”

The president who strode on stage for a news conference cut a remarkably different figure than the Obama who, just seven weeks ago, held a similar event in which he somberly admitted he had taken a “shellacking” in the midterm elections and needed to re-evaluate. This time, Obama was about to jet off to a Hawaiian holiday vacation knowing he had secured the kind of legislative wins that rarely come so bundled as they just did, particularly in a post-election lawmaking session.

Obama spoke on the same day that he found enough allies in both parties to get Senate ratification of a nuclear arms treaty with Russia, a vote watched around the world as

a test of international security and presidential clout. He also signed landmark legislation to allow gays to serve openly in the military, calling himself overwhelmed by the enormity of the moment.

And that was on top of other achievements, including a hard-fought deal to extend tax cuts and unemployment insurance even as it piled on more debt, a broad food security bill, a trade deal with South Korea and declarations of progress in the widening war in Afghanistan.

“If there’s any lesson to draw from these past few weeks, it’s that we are not doomed to endless gridlock,” Obama said. “We’ve shown in the wake of the November elections that we have the capacity not only to make progress, but to make progress together.”

That spirit may be fleeting.

Obama was able to get the votes he needed in a lame-duck session in which his party still controlled the House and Senate, retiring or ousted members could act knowing they would no longer face voters, and the

potential of a politically devastating tax hike on Jan. 1 forced lawmakers into action. None of those factors will be in play come January when Republicans take control of the House and have a greater voice in the Senate as well.

To a nation long tired of political gamesmanship, Obama used the moment to try to put himself above it—and to challenge both parties to join him. He said voters wanted this “season of progress,” promising to stick with that mission and hoping “my Democratic and Republican friends will do the same.”

He also did not get all he wanted, losing some fights and swallowing a two-year extension of tax cuts for wealthier people as part of the tax deal.

Obama underscored his agenda ahead, much of it amounting to unfinished promises: deficit reduction, energy innovation, immigration reform, the closing of the Guantanamo Bay prison, education and research investments, and the biggest item of all: finding ways to create more jobs for millions of hurting Americans.

Holiday shoppers sprint to end; retail revenue up

NEW YORK (AP)—Holiday shoppers are racing to the end of the season at a more feverish pace this year, with retail revenue up 5.5 percent during the last weekend before Christmas.

The figure, released by ShopperTrak on Wednesday, is a drastic improvement from the same weekend last year, when revenue dropped 6.2 percent because a big East Coast snowstorm closed malls and kept shoppers at home.

This year’s improvement is especially encouraging for retailers, for whom a big weekend all but sealed a shopping season of healthy revenue gains.

ShopperTrak reported shop-

pers spent \$18.83 billion Dec. 17-19. That includes \$7.58 billion spent on what retailers call “Super Saturday”—the Saturday before Christmas. The number of shoppers rose 3 percent over the weekend before Christmas last year.

ShopperTrak expects retail spending to rise 4 percent for the holiday season. It fell 0.4 percent during the 2009 season. Anything over 4 percent is considered a healthy gain.

The final days leading up to Christmas are important for retailers. Some do a third of their annual business during the season. The final countdown to Christmas is especially important. Shopper-

Trak estimates that the 10 days before Christmas usually make up 31 percent to 34 percent of holiday-season retail revenue.

Consumers appeared to be in the mood to hit just one location for their shopping needs, with Thomson Reuters reporting that traffic at malls was higher on Super Saturday than a year ago.

But ShopperTrak anticipates this Thursday will likely edge out Super Saturday to become the second-biggest sales day this season behind Black Friday, as last-minute shoppers scramble to pick up gifts. Black Friday sales were \$10.69 billion, according to ShopperTrak.

worldwide in 24 hours. That is 9 percent higher than last year and 2007—the year before the recession took hold. It’s 60 percent higher than a normal day. The glowing forecast for holiday shipping continues a trend of higher revenue and shipping volume for UPS during the first nine months of the year. U.S. daily package volume improved by almost 2 percent, while international volume rose more than 17 percent.

Oil rises to 2-year high near \$91 as equities jump

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose to fresh two-year highs near \$91 a barrel Thursday in Asia as a U.S. stock market rally boosted optimism that demand will improve. Benchmark oil for February delivery rose as high as \$90.79 a barrel, the highest since October 2008, and was up 8 cents to \$90.57 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 66 cents to settle at \$90.48 on Wednesday.

Nation



President Barack Obama signs the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010, at the Interior Department in Washington.

Obama signs 'don't ask, don't tell' repeal

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama signed a new law Wednesday that will allow gays for the first time in history to serve openly in America’s military. And he urged those kicked out under the old law to re-enlist.

Framing the issue as a matter of civil rights long denied, Obama said that “we are a nation that welcomes the service of every patriot ... a nation that believes that all men and women are created equal.”

Repealing the 17-year-old policy known as “don’t ask, don’t tell” in a ceremony that was alternately emotional and rousing, the president said “this law I’m about to sign will strengthen our national security and uphold the ideals that our fighting men and women risk their lives to defend.”

The new law ends a policy that forced gays to hide their sexual orientation or face dismissal. More than 13,500 people were discharged under the rule since 1993.

“I hope those ... who’ve been discharged under this discriminatory policy will seek to re-enlist once the repeal is implemented,” Obama said.

“I hope so too,” agreed Zoe Dunning, a former naval officer now with the advocacy group Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund.

“We are in two wars and we need qualified candidates,” Dunning said after the ceremony. She said it was unclear how many discharged under the old law might seek to rejoin and whether all “have completely healed ... trust the military is going to treat them fairly.”

The question of reinstating those previously discharged was addressed in a months-long study done by the Pentagon earlier this year on how the armed forces might go about implementing a repeal of don’t ask don’t tell.

The study recommended that the Department of Defense issue guidance to all the service branches permitting those previously separated

...hails bipartisanship after arms pact passes

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama celebrated a bipartisan “season of progress” on Wednesday at a year-end news conference marking an up-and-down second year in office that blended a thrashing at the polls, slow progress on the economy and late victories in Congress.

He forecast struggles over spending in 2011 with Republicans who take control the House, and vowed to try again and pass sweeping immigration legislation that was blocked by GOP critics. “If I believe in something strongly I stay on it,” he said.

Obama opened the news conference with a reference to the nuclear arms control treaty with Russia that the Senate ratified earlier in the day on a bipartisan vote. In addition to cutting nuclear weapons and launchers, he said the pact will allow U.S. inspectors to “be back on the ground” in Russia. “So we’ll be able to trust but verify,” he added, quoting the late President Ronald Reagan in another in a string of bipartisan gestures of recent weeks.

The president, who signed legislation earlier in the day permitting gay members of the armed forces to serve openly, said he does not currently favor legalizing gay marriage.

“I struggle with this. I have friends, people who work for me who are in powerful, long standing gay or lesbian unions,” he said. “I have said that at this point my baseline is a strong civil union that provides them protection and legal rights.”

on the basis of homosexual conduct “to be considered for re-entry, assuming they qualify in all other respects.”

Rust Belt states losing people, political clout

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.

(AP)—After years of losing residents to more prosperous states, the nation’s Rust Belt now confronts another blow to its economic prospects: losing some of its votes in Congress.

The latest census figures show that states in much of the Midwest and Northeast have been overtaken in population growth by the South and West. So starting in 2013, they will have to make do with smaller delegations in Washington,

which means less political clout to attract government money and jobs.

“These states in the industrial heartland and to some extent in the Northeast have seen their impact eroded,” said Norman Ornstein, a political scientist with the American Enterprise Institute. “It’s not totally devastating. But numbers do matter.”

Analysts say the changes will ratchet up pressure on elected leaders to work together more closely and to redouble

efforts to strengthen and diversify their state economies.

Michigan was the only state where the population declined over the past decade, but growth across the region was anemic—3 percent in the Northeast and 4 percent in the Midwest. Population in the South and West shot up nearly four times more. The trend largely reflects young people going elsewhere in search of work, causing the northern population to become older.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Administration files trade case against China

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration on Wednesday filed a case against China before the World Trade Organization, accusing Beijing of providing unfair government subsidies to Chinese energy companies. The case is in response to a petition from the United Steelworkers union last September. The union alleged that Chinese businesses are able to sell wind and solar equipment on the international market at a cheaper price than their competitors because they receive subsidies. The administration’s WTO case alleges that the subsidies were in violation of global trade rules.

As Christmas nears, UPS’ peak day shows growth

NEW YORK (AP)—For UPS, it’s beginning to look a lot like a normal Christmas. Wednesday was forecast to be the busiest day of the year for the world’s largest package delivery company. It expects to deliver a record 24 million shipments

Hillsides collapse as storm lashes SoCal

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Axl Dominguez awoke early Wednesday to a bumping sound and looked out the window to a scary sight: plastic trashcans floating down the flooded street.

And then the water came rushing into his house.

“We didn’t have time to get anything. It happened really fast,” the 15-year-old said, shivering in shorts, a mud-splashed sweat shirt and bare feet as he waited to go with his family to an evacuation center. “Water started coming in from all the walls. Then the wall fell and we got out through the window.”

The tail end of a storm that dumped rain on Southern California for nearly a week gave the region one final lashing, burying houses and cars in mud, washing hillsides onto highways, flooding urban streets and threatening dozens of canyon homes.

Inflatable boats were used to rescue dozens of motorists and homeowners from flooded streets, hotels and hillsides, while others refused to leave their homes as filthy water and mud sliced through their neighborhoods.

The storm weakened as it moved eastward, but floods still washed away homes in Arizona and inundated parts of Nevada and Utah.

The low-pressure system could be in New Mexico by Thursday and could reach the Gulf Coast by Saturday with some rain, but not the deluge

that hit Southern California, forecasters said.

The storm turned the final days before Christmas into a nightmare, and left some residents fearful that more and bigger mudslides could strike the wildfire-scarred hillsides in suburban Los Angeles even after the skies cleared.

Officials on Tuesday ordered evacuation of 232 homes in La Canada Flintridge and La Crescenta, suburbs of Los Angeles below steep hillsides that burned in 2009 and where mudslides inundated homes and backyards in February.

The area is where the Station Fire charred 250 square miles above suburbs tucked below the San Gabriel Mountains.

“The ground is so saturated it could move at any time” and the threat will remain for several weeks, said Bob Spencer, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Olivia Brown, 45, left her Paradise Valley home in the La Canada Flintridge area around midnight.

“I’m worried about a rock coming down on the house,” Brown said at a Red Cross shelter. “My husband stayed home with two of our dogs. He had to be a man, you know, and hold down the fort.”

“When he’s nervous, it makes me nervous. I had to go,” she said.

In Silverado Canyon, in the Santa Ana Mountains in eastern Orange County, Mary Adams

and her husband got up in the middle of the night to check for mudslide danger as rains pounded the hill above them.

They had just crawled back into bed at 3:30 a.m. when they heard a low, dull roar and then echoing boom of boulders tumbling into a creek.

Adams, 54, jumped from bed to see a small river of mud, rocks and debris sweep past her side door, whisking the couple’s travel trailer 100 feet down the hill and filling their garage and succulent garden with thick ooze.

On Wednesday morning, the rain was still coming down hard as Adams surveyed the damage. The sound of falling rocks still rang out every few minutes as the rain poured down outside.

Like Adams, dozens of her neighbors had refused to evacuate and worked with shovels to clear debris from storm drains and divert rivers of water and muck from their homes and cars.

“If we can get the truck out, then maybe we can leave but I’m not going to be away from my house and just be sitting in an evacuation center three blocks down the road,” said Adams, who has lived in the canyon more than 30 years.

In San Diego, the first floor of the Premier Inn in the city’s Mission Valley flooded, forcing guests to the second floor where lifeguards were sent to rescue them, police said. SeaWorld San Diego closed for the day as waters rose in the nearby San Di-

ego River, but it was expected to reopen on Thursday.

Sixty people were rescued and more than 30 homes evacuated when water surged through Dove Canyon, a gated Orange County community.

In Highland, about 65 miles east of Los Angeles, two creeks overflowed, swamping as many as 20 homes in up to 3 feet of mud. Up to 40 homes and around 100 residents have been evacuated.

“This mud flow moved cars, picked them up, stood them up on their nose at 45-degree angles, buried them,” said Bill Peters, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Los Angeles County health officials warned residents to be careful through Thursday

of polluted water around storm drains, creeks and rivers. The environmental group Heal the Bay said ocean water could remain contaminated with bacteria for much longer than that.

“When you have a major rain like this, we’ll have an impact at some beaches for weeks,” said Mark Gold, group president.

In far northwestern Arizona, homes along a flooded wash teetered on the edge as residents scurried to gather belongings with the threat of even more structures being swept away.

“It is a mess,” Beaver Dam resident Lois Rolfsmeyer said. “The water is going to take our next-door neighbor’s house and the one behind us, and it’s eroding under our house.”

Five vacant homes were lost because of flooding in the

rural area. Nearly two dozen homes were damaged—some already partially collapsed and submerged—and at least three of those could be swept away, officials said.

Forecasters said the Virgin River, which cuts through that part of the state, is expected to crest Thursday morning.

In nearby Utah, floods threatened to swallow a bridge. The flooding forced the closure of Zion National Park on Tuesday. The south entrance and the visitor center opened on Wednesday afternoon.

In southern Nevada, a state of emergency was ordered after rain-swollen creeks closed some roads in the Las Vegas area and snow disrupted electricity to about 300 customers on nearby Mount Charleston.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@plcom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/CPA-SA-002-09**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Saipan International Airport Restroom Renovations and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/CPA-SA-002-09” and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011**, to the office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **three hundred sixty (360) calendar days**. Liquidated damages of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the “Bidder’s Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause”, a “Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities”, and the “Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation”, as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cashier’s check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 am, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: December 14, 2010



ACROSS THE NATION

Jury recommends death for dad, son in bank bombing

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—A jury Wednesday recommended that a father and his son be sentenced to death for planting a bomb that exploded inside an Oregon bank two years ago, killing two police officers and maiming a third. In a trial that spanned three months, prosecutors portrayed Bruce and Joshua Turnidge as bigoted men who hated authorities, were desperate for money and feared that newly elected President Barack Obama would take away their guns. Both defendants stood with their lawyers and stared straight forward, showing no emotion as Marion County Circuit Judge Tom Hart read the jury’s decisions. Sheriff’s deputies handcuffed them and led them away to be jailed until Hart formally sentences them Jan. 24.

2 firefighters dead, 17 injured in Chicago blaze

CHICAGO (AP)—The burning building had been vacant for years, but the firefighters went in anyway—just in case squatters started the blaze and were trapped inside. Then the heavy-timbered roof and a wall collapsed. Four firefighters were trapped under debris, and two of them died on a day that already was among the most somber on the Chicago Fire Department’s calendar. Exactly 100 years ago, 21 Chicago firefighters died when a wall collapsed at the Union Stock Yards fire, one of the nation’s worst tragedies for firefighters before 9/11. “We were ringing the bell and calling out the names,” said retired fireman Bill Cosgrove, who was at a service honoring the anniversary. “We heard a mayday on the radio that a wall had fallen in.”

Parents of NJ student who killed himself may sue

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP)—The parents of a Rutgers University student who killed himself after his roommate allegedly used a webcam to spy on him during a tryst with another man have filed notice that they’re considering suing the school. Joseph and Jane Clementi, parents of Tyler Clementi, filed notice Friday preserving their right to sue. They have to wait six months after the notice to file a lawsuit over their son’s death, which became a symbol in a national outcry over the bullying of young gays. In the notice, the couple said “it appears Rutgers University failed to act, failed to put in place and/or failed to implement, and enforce policies and practices that would have prevented or deterred such acts, and that Rutgers failed to act timely and appropriately”

Ind. mom says she hid young son’s body for a year

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP)—An Indiana woman told police investigators she fed her 3-year-old son olive oil and vinegar until he stopped breathing and died, then wrapped his body in a blanket and hid it for more than a year, according to court documents. Fort Wayne police arrested Latisha Ann Lawson this week after family members reported her and her two children missing. Officers found Lawson and her 10-year-old daughter living in a house that a church had provided for them in recent weeks. They also found a young boy’s remains inside a tote bag at the home, and a coroner on Wednesday ruled strangulation as the child’s cause of death. Police are awaiting DNA test results, but have said the remains are believed to be those of Lawson’s son, Jezai King.

Asia

SKorea holds massive new drills after North attack

POCHEON, South Korea (AP)—South Korean tanks fired artillery Thursday as the army and air force held its largest air and ground drills of the year in a show of force a month after North Korea's deadly shelling of a front-line island.

The drills, taking place at training grounds in mountainous Pocheon near the Koreas' heavily fortified border, signaled South Korea's determination to demonstrate and hone its military strength at the risk of further escalation with North Korea.

Vulcan artillery vehicles fired into a wide valley with numbers carved onto hills below as the army and air force launched the drills at 2:42 p.m. (0542 GMT) about 20 miles (30 kilometers) from the North Korean border.

They are the armed forces' largest joint firing exercises this year, and the biggest-ever wintertime air and ground firing exercises, government and army officials said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules.

Exactly one month ago, routine South Korean live-fire drills from Yeonpyeong Island in the Yellow Sea triggered a shower



A North Korean village is seen from the Tong-il observatory near the border village of Panmunjom in Paju, South Korea, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010.

of North Korean artillery that killed two marines and two construction workers. It was the first military attack on a civilian area since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce.

North Korea, which claims the waters around the South Korean-held island lying just 7 miles (11 kilometers) from its shores as its territory, accused the South of sparking the exchange by ignoring Pyongyang's warnings against staging the live-fire drills near their disputed maritime border.

Amid international concerns

of all-out war on the tense Korean peninsula, South Korea has pushed ahead with military exercises over the past several weeks, including live-fire drills from Yeonpyeong Island and Monday's land-based exercises.

Thursday's drills will be the largest-scale firing exercise jointly staged by South Korea's army and air force this year, and the biggest-ever wintertime air and ground firing exercises, government and army officials said on condition of anonymity citing department rules.

Japan's Emperor Akihito celebrates 77th birthday

TOKYO (AP)—Emperor Akihito celebrated his 77th birthday Thursday and urged the people of Japan to pay heed to the needs of the elderly, as the number of older people in the country rapidly grows.

Akihito greeted thousands of well-wishers waving Japanese flags from a balcony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. Empress Michiko and other royal family members—including Akihito's eldest son Crown Prince Naruhito and his wife Crown Princess Masako—appeared on the balcony.

Akihito has cut back on official duties because of health

reasons. He did not make any foreign trips this year. The emperor underwent an operation for prostate cancer in 2003, and the Imperial Household Agency says he has been undergoing hormonal therapy to prevent its recurrence.

At a palace news conference Monday, Akihito also said that he has hearing problems.

"With regard to aging, I have become somewhat hard of hearing so when I receive people, I ask ... them to try to talk to me in a louder voice," the emperor said.

He said he hopes people

will be more attentive to the elderly, including more attention paid to ensure buildings and towns are better equipped to serve their needs.

"In our society today, where the aging population continues to grow, it is my sincere hope that there will be further understanding of the needs of the elderly," Akihito said.

Japan, which has long prided itself on its citizens' long life spans, is one of the world's most rapidly aging countries. The government said Japanese who are 65 and older hit a record 22.7 percent of the population in 2009.

sparking deadly violence. The government announced, however, it will retain broad powers to detain suspects and impose order. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said Tuesday the government felt it no longer needed the sweeping controls imposed during April protests by the anti-government Red Shirt demonstrators, many of them supporters of exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

3 convicted in terror plot on Australian army base

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Three men who believed Islam was under threat from western nations were found guilty in an Australian court on Thursday of plotting a suicide attack against a Sydney army base. The men—all Australian citizens of Somali or Lebanese origin—were convicted in Victoria state Supreme Court of conspiring to plot a terrorist attack, and could face life in prison. Two other men were found not guilty of the same charge. The five men were arrested in pre-dawn raids in the southern city of Melbourne in 2009.

World

Iraqi churches cancel Christmas festivities

KIRKUK, Iraq (AP)—No decorations, no midnight Mass. Even an appearance by Santa Claus has been nixed after Iraq's Christian leaders called off Christmas celebrations amid new al-Qaida threats on the tiny community still terrified from a bloody siege on a Baghdad church.

Christians across Iraq have been living in fear since the assault on Our Lady of Salvation Church as its Catholic congregation was celebrating Sunday Mass. Sixty-eight people were killed. Days later Islamic insurgents bombed Christian homes and neighborhoods across the capital.

On Tuesday, al-Qaida insurgents threatened more attacks on Iraq's beleaguered Christians, many of whom have fled their homes or the country since the church attack. A council representing Christian denominations across Iraq advised its followers to cancel public celebrations of Christmas out of concern for their lives and as a show of mourning for the victims.

"Nobody can ignore the

threats of al-Qaida against Iraqi Christians," said Chaldean Archbishop Louis Sako in Kirkuk. "We cannot find a single source of joy that makes us celebrate. The situation of the Christians is bleak."

Church officials in Baghdad, as well as in the northern cities of Kirkuk and Mosul and the southern city of Basra, said they will not put up Christmas decorations or celebrate midnight Mass. They urged worshippers not to decorate their homes. Even an appearance by Santa Claus was called off.

"It's to avoid any attacks, but also to show that people are sad, not happy," said Younadin Kanna, a Christian lawmaker from Baghdad.

Even before the Oct. 31 church attack, thousands of Christians were fleeing Iraq. They make up more than a third of the 53,700 Iraqis resettled in the United States since 2007, according to State Department statistics.

Since the church attack, some 1,000 families have fled to Iraq's safer Kurdish-ruled north, according to the Unit-

ed Nations, which recently warned of a steady exodus of Iraqi Christians.

The latest threats were posted late Tuesday by the Islamic State of Iraq, an al-Qaida front group, on a website frequented by Islamic extremists. The group said it wants the release of two women it claims are being held captive by Egypt's Coptic Church.

Muslim extremists in Egypt accuse the Coptic Church of detaining the women for allegedly converting to Islam, an accusation the church denies. The message posted Tuesday was addressed to Iraq's Christian community and said it was designed to "pressure" Egypt.

Few reliable statistics exist on the number of Christians remaining in this nation of 29 million. A recent State Department report says Christian leaders estimate there are 400,000 to 600,000, down from a prewar level of some 1.4 million.

For those who remain, Christmas will be a somber affair.

Argentine ex-dictator sentenced to life in prison

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Former dictator Jorge Videla was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday for the torture and murder of 31 prisoners, most of whom who were "shot while trying to escape" in the months after his military coup.

The conviction was Videla's first in 25 years for crimes against humanity, thrilling relatives who packed the courtroom, holding up grainy black-and-white pictures of the victims and shouting "murderers" at the defendants. Most of the two-dozen former military and police officials who were tried with Videla also received life sentences.

Videla, who led the military coup that installed Argentina's

1976-1983 dictatorship, is considered the architect of a dirty war that eliminated thousands of people in a crackdown on armed leftist guerrillas and their supporters.

The judges found Videla "criminally responsible" for the deaths of the prisoners, who were transferred from civilian jail cells to a clandestine prison where they were repeatedly tortured under interrogation before being killed.

Videla told the court that Argentine society demanded the crackdown to prevent a Marxist revolution and complained that "terrorists" now run the country.

Videla must serve his sentence in a civilian prison, the judges decided, ruling out the

privileges he enjoyed after he was first convicted of crimes against humanity in 1985, as Argentina was struggling to return to democracy. Videla served just five years of a life sentence in a military prison before former President Carlos Menem granted him and other junta leaders amnesty.

After a concerted campaign to reform a judicial system packed with dictatorship-era judges, the Supreme Court overturned those amnesties in 2007, and current President Cristina Fernandez has encouraged a wave of new trials of former military and police figures involved in the clandestine torture centers where thousands of the regime's opponents disappeared.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US medicines for Afghan soldiers disappear

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S.-donated medicines and pharmaceutical supplies meant to keep the new Afghan army and police healthy have been disappearing before reaching Afghan military hospitals and clinics, and the government said it is removing the army's top medical officer from his post as part of an investigation into alleged corruption. Afghan Defense Minister Gen. Abdul Rahim Wardak told The Associated Press that Surgeon General Ahmad Zia Yafthali was being removed from his post as part of the inquiry. Three officials from the country's top medical facility, Dawood National Military Hospital in Kabul, have been fired, he said.

Thailand ends state of emergency in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's government withdrew armed soldiers from skytrain stops in Bangkok and other key sites Wednesday as it lifted an eight-month-old state of emergency imposed when protesters overran the capital,

WORLD BRIEFS

Ivory Coast opposition wants Gbagbo gone by force

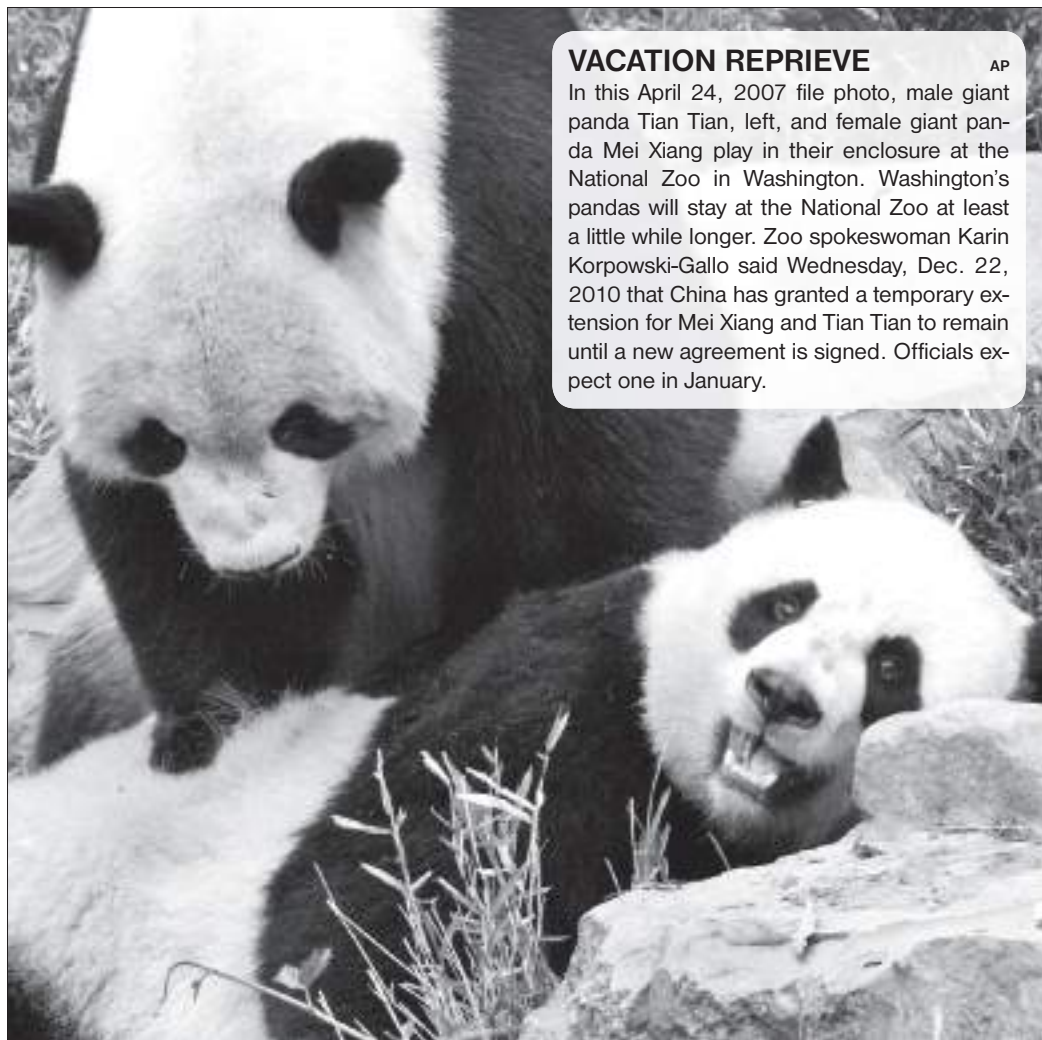
ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—A top opposition figure called Wednesday for the international community to use force to oust Laurent Gbagbo from the presidency after the disputed election, as France urged its citizens to get out amid growing fears of civil war. The United Nations and other world leaders recognize Allassane Ouattara as the winner of the Nov. 28 runoff vote. His prime minister, Guillaume Soro, urged the U.N., European Union, African Union and others to consider intervening to push Gbagbo out. "It is obvious that there is one solution left—that of force," Guillaume Soro told France's i-tele television channel. He added that "200 people have been killed by the bullets of Liberian and Angolan mercenaries" in Ivory Coast but he did not elaborate and the numbers

could not immediately be confirmed.

Venezuela bars foreign funding for NGOs

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A congress dominated by President Hugo Chavez's allies passed a law barring foreign funding for non-government organizations and political parties, adding to a series of measures that critics say aim to stifle dissent. The law approved by the National Assembly late Tuesday puts in jeopardy human rights groups and other organizations that get money from abroad, providing for fines up to double the amount received. It is one of many controversial laws Chavez's government is pushing through in the final weeks of an outgoing congress that had only a token opposition presence. A new legislature with a much larger opposition bloc takes office Jan. 5.

Off The Wall



VACATION REPRIEVE

AP

In this April 24, 2007 file photo, male giant panda Tian Tian, left, and female giant panda Mei Xiang play in their enclosure at the National Zoo in Washington. Washington's pandas will stay at the National Zoo at least a little while longer. Zoo spokeswoman Karin Korpowski-Gallo said Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010 that China has granted a temporary extension for Mei Xiang and Tian Tian to remain until a new agreement is signed. Officials expect one in January.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Christmas cash: Man gives \$50 bills at Goodwill

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Those at a Goodwill store in Memphis got some extra Christmas spending money thanks to a man who handed out \$50 bills to everyone. According to WMC-TV, no one knows the identity of the man, who passed out the money Monday. Store employee Chestine Dunn says the man carried a stack of envelopes with him. Inside each envelope was \$50. Witnesses say the man didn't buy anything and asked for nothing in return. He simply gave lucky strangers an envelope, wished them a merry Christmas and moved on. One of lucky ones, Betty Ridenour, says everyone was stunned.

Ohio zoo names snake Hanna, after celeb zookeeper

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio zoo has settled on a familiar name for its new snake that has replaced her record-breaking mother. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium says its new reticulated python will be called Hanna—which happens to be the last name of the zoo's celebrity zookeeper, Jack Hanna. Hanna the snake was acquired last month from the same private breeder who had sold the zoo her mother, Fluffy. At 24 feet, Fluffy was the longest snake in captivity when she died in October of an apparent tumor. At 18 feet, Hanna is a little shaver compared to her mom. The zoo says a name-the-snake contest on Facebook awarded Hanna the most votes, slightly more than second-place, Fuzzy. Jack Hanna says having a namesake chokes him up.

Rider pulls knife on California cabbie, leaves tip

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A California taxi passenger may have an anger problem, but he's no Grinch. Police in Sacramento got a report that a man pulled a knife on a cab driver during a dispute over the weekend but still made sure to pay his fare - plus tip. The Sacramento Bee says the rider argued with the driver about his desired destination on Saturday then pulled out a folding-blade knife, prompting the driver to run away on foot. The passenger also fled - after leaving his cab fare and a tip. Police say the passenger has not been found.

'Santa Claus' robs Rhode Island yacht club bar

EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Call it a ho-ho-holdup. Police say a man dressed as Santa Claus has robbed a Rhode Island yacht club. Authorities say a bartender was alone in the East Providence Yacht Club Sunday night when a large man wearing a red suit, red hat, white beard and carrying a sack walked into the bar and brandished a gun. The bartender fled and ran to a nearby business where she called 911. By the time police arrived, the Santa bandit—as well as an undetermined amount of cash from the register—was missing. Co-owner Tony Perry tells WLNE-TV he's just glad no one was hurt. There were no immediate arrests.

Santa lends a knee for surprise marriage proposal

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP)—Santa has conspired with a love-struck California man by lending a knee for a surprise marriage proposal. Jenny Hoang took a friend's boys to see Santa at South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa on Sunday, and she was helping the kids off Santa's lap when Old St. Nick waved her back. Santa told the 27-year-old she's been very good and there's a special gift for her. Her boyfriend of nine years, Jonathan Nguyen, suddenly emerged, got down on a knee and proposed. She said yes, then slid off Santa's lap and knelt down so Jonathan could slip a ring on her finger. The groom-to-be, who is also 27, told the Orange County Register he secretly enlisted the help of the shopping mall and Santa to pull off the surprise.

Shot-up prop car causes brief Philadelphia scare

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Police officers in downtown Philadelphia who came across a shot-up car with exposed wiring inside were about to call the bomb squad when they found out it was a movie prop. The Philadelphia Inquirer reports police stopped Friday morning in the Old City section when they saw the car riddled with bullet holes and side windows shot out. They also saw wires running from the trunk into the dashboard. The officers were ready to close the street and call the bomb squad when a security guard told them it was for a film. The thriller "Safe," starring Jason Statham, wrapped Thursday night after shooting in the city in recent weeks.

Science & Technology

Skype experiences service outage

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Internet calling service Skype SA was experiencing an outage Wednesday, though it was not immediately clear how many of its millions of users were affected. The company said in the afternoon that it was fixing the problem and it expected service would return in several hours.

A little before noon New York time, Skype tweeted on its Twitter feed that some users might have trouble sign-

ing in to its service and that it was looking into the cause. Two hours later, Skype said its engineers and site operations team were working to fix a problem, and about a half-hour later the company linked to a blog post about the outage and thanked users for "continued patience while we return things to normal."

On Skype's blog, head blogger Peter Parkes said that the problem was due to many of

what Skype calls "supernodes" going offline because of a problem affecting some versions of Skype's software.

Skype's operations depend on the connections between users' computers and telephones. "Supernodes" are computers that the company said are like phone directories: When Skype can't quickly find people that a user is trying to contact, it will look for one of these computers to find them.

Robot waiters in China never lose patience

JINAN, China (AP)—Service with a smile also comes with an electronic voice at the Dalu Robot restaurant, where the hotpot meals are not as famous yet as the staff who never lose their patience and never take tips.

The restaurant, which opened this month in Jinan in northern Shandong province, is touted as China's first robot hotpot eatery where robots resembling Star Wars droids circle the room carrying trays of food in a conveyor belt-like system.

More than a dozen robots operate in the restaurant as entertainers, servers, greeters and receptionists. Each robot has a motion sensor that tells it to stop when someone is in its path so customers can reach for dishes they want.

The service industry in China has not always kept up with the country's rapid economic growth, and can be quite basic in some restaurants, leading customers in the Dalu restaurant to praise the robots.

"They have a better service attitude than humans," said Li Xiaomei, 35, who was visiting the restaurant for the first time.

"Humans can be temperamental or impatient, but they don't feel tired, they just keep working and moving round and round the restaurant all night," Li said.



DANCING CRANES

AP

A pair of 10-storey high robotic cranes, the world's largest animatronics spectacle created by Emmy Award winner Jeremy Rallton, "dance" during an outdoor show at Resorts World Sentosa, one of Singapore's main tourist attractions on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010.

Inspired by space exploration, robot technology and global innovation, the restaurant's owner, Zhang Yongpei, said he hopes his restaurant will show the world China is a serious competitor in developing technology.

"I hope this new concept shows that China is forward-thinking and innovative," Zhang said.

As customers enter the dimly lit restaurant lined with blinking neon lights to simulate a futuristic environment, a female robot decorated with batting

eyelashes greets people with an electronic "welcome."

During the meal, crowds of up to 100 customers, are entertained by a dancing and talking robot that looks more like a mannequin with a dress, flapping its arms around in a stiff motion.

Zhang said he hopes to roll out 30 robots which cost \$6,000 each in the coming months and eventually develop robots with human-like qualities that serve customers at their table and can walk up and down the stairs.

In PC task list, it's hard to tell friend from foe

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I've been using a list in my PC's Task Manager program to find out what's running in the "background." I found four instances of a process called "iexplore." By checking a list of PC processes you recommended, I learned that iexplore is probably the "Backdoor.Aphexdoor virus," which mimics Microsoft's Internet Explorer Web browser.

I tried using my AVG antivirus software and the Malwarebytes program you suggested, but neither de-

fects this program. Is this a virus, and what should I do?—**Jerome Sturgesleski, Minneapolis**

ANSWER: No, I don't think it's a virus, so you don't have to do anything.

There are two PC background processes with the shortened name iexplore: the real Internet Explorer and the virus Backdoor.Aphexdoor.

The Symantec website, at <http://tinyurl.com/23vn23r/>, says the virus dates back to 2004, when it posed a "very low" risk. Antivirus software has been protecting against it since then.

Because the Malwarebytes and AVG programs didn't find a virus, I think the iexplore process on your PC is the real Internet Explorer.

Why are there four instances running at once? Whenever you open a new Internet Explorer window to perform a task, such as open another Web page, another iexplore process shows up in your Task Manager.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may e-mail him at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

Electronic info dominates George W. Bush's archive

LEWISVILLE, Texas (AP)—Archivists responsible for putting together the presidential library of former President George W. Bush are tasked with processing 80 terabytes of electronic information—20 times the Clinton administration's four terabytes.

Bush's electronic archives contain more than 200 million e-mails, compared with about 20 million in former President Bill Clinton's. Bush's archives also include share drives, hard drives, scheduling systems and digital photography, which his administration switched to about halfway through his tenure.

The average size of a quality digital photo is about three megabytes, meaning just one terabyte can store more than 300,000 such pictures.

The Bush administration e-mails alone would take up an estimated 600 million printed pages, said Alan Lowe, director of Bush's presidential library and museum. Combined with 70 million paper documents, the haul far eclipses the 550 to 580 million printed pages Lowe estimates are in all other National Archives' presidential libraries.

"In the old days, the National Archives went in and packed up trucks and trucks



In this Jan. 15, 2009, file photo workers store thousands of boxes of documents from President Bush's years in the White House at a warehouse in Lewisville, Texas. AP

through each document to decide what might need to be redacted for personal or national security reasons. They'll also put even more specific topic designators on each document to make them easier to find.

On Jan. 20, 2014—five years to the date after Bush left office—citizens will be able to request access to his administration's archives through the Freedom of Information Act. Lowe said in anticipation, archivists already have started processing the administration's paper records and will start on electronic files in the next year, when the new system has finalized redacting capabilities.

Lowe said processing all the records ultimately will take decades, but some records also will be handled as requests come in.

"It's going to take a long time," Lowe said. "I have no idea the number of years."

It's slow-going even without a wealth of electronic files. National Archives' staff noted in an article in the "The Public Historian" that Ronald Reagan's presidential library only processed about 9 percent of its records in the five years after he left office, while George H.W. Bush's got through about 7 percent.

Presidential archives in any form offer insight into an administration and can shed light on how policies developed, said Bruce Buchanan, a government professor specializing in presidential studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

"If you assemble these archives and interpret them carefully you can come to understand how a president makes decisions," Buchanan said.

But he said e-mail is new enough that until the archives can be accessed, it remains difficult to say how much additional insight can be gained from them. Much also will depend on researchers' patience.

"It's going to take lots of sifting and interpreting," he said.

Former Bush adviser Karen Hughes said although they were told in initial staff meetings that all correspondence eventually would be public, "it's not something you think about every time you send an e-mail."

Still, she said, the most important conversations and decisions took place in face-to-face meetings with the president.

Bush memoir sells 2 million copies

NEW YORK (AP)—Make that 2 million books sold for former President George W. Bush.

The Crown Publishing Group said Wednesday that Bush's "Decision Points" passed the 2 million mark less than 2 months after its official release.

Published in early Novem-

ber, Bush's memoir about his key presidential decisions and other choices has topped the best-seller list on Amazon.com for weeks. More than 2.6 million hardcovers are in print after an initial run of 1.5 million.

The 2 million books sold include nearly 200,000 e-

ditions.

full of paper," Lowe said.

The preponderance of electronic files presents new challenges, ranging from dealing with the sheer volume to ensuring consistent redacting of information in an e-mail chain that may have been sent back and forth dozens of times.

Lockheed Martin Corp. has created the Electronic Records Archives system for the National Archives that is specifically designed to preserve the

federal government's digital records. Lowe said the system was designed to ensure digital files will be accessible as computer programs evolve.

"It's not dependent on any sort of operating system that we're using right now," he said.

Bush archivists already have the ability to search the system and retrieve documents. Now they must begin processing the data, reading

Message of Appreciation



We, the families of the late

Henoleen ("Heno"/"Lynn") Santos Camacho

on both Saipan (Cabrera & Camacho) and Pohnpei (Une, Nanpei, Santos, & Yamada) would like to extend a sincere "Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase" and "Kalangan" to all of you for your kind words, thoughts, prayers, and generous support during our grieving on the loss of our loved one. Your presence and prayers at the nightly masses and most especially at the Mass in Lynn's honor were very comforting.

Special appreciation goes to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Fathers Jesse Reyes, Rey Rosal, Isaac Ayuyu, and Raul Salgado, Pohnpei Senior Pastor of Kitt, Shadoru Santos and Senior Pastor of Dolonier, Yasuo Yamada and family.

A special appreciation also goes to the Borja Funeral Services Team, the beautiful choir from the Santa Soledad Parish led by Ms. Lou B. Kisa and pianist Ms. Maggie Santos Sablan. Our gratitude also goes out to the beautiful choirs from the Hambrose and Joseph families of Mortlock, Chuuk and from the Pohnpeian Community Church on Saipan, led by Senior Pastor, Kohne Ramon.

The choirs touched all of us with their wonderful, inspirational, and sentimental songs in Lynn's honor during the services and family prayer sessions.

Additionally, a special appreciation is given to the Public School System (Special Education, Kagman, San Vicente, Koblerville, Oleai, and Garapan Elementary Schools), the Northern Marianas College, the Department of Public Safety Traffic, Fire, and Paramedics, the Department of Public Health (Commonwealth Health Center/Clinic doctors, nurses, and staff), and to the Army Reserve Soldiers and families on Saipan, Guam, Korea, Japan, Hawaii, and the Continental U.S.

And lastly, a very special "Thank You" and "Kalangan" to all on Pohnpei who participated in one way or another to ensure that the services for "Heno" (Lynn) were conducted in a very sentimental and memorable way. The beautiful flowers, decorations, songs, wonderful comments and postings on Face Book and My Space, and overall services for Lynn, as well as the manner in which the family members of Lynn were taken care of were exemplary. No word can describe our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all family and friends of Lynn who reached out and graced us all during our time of sorrow. We love you all and we will always remember your kindness and hospitality.

Thank You So Much, "Un Sen Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase," and "Kalangan!"

Si, Ed, Kobe Jordan, Winfred, Raena, Christian Joe, Chinnelle, David, Yolani, and Vince

SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY



In loving memory of our beloved son

Andrew J. Pangelinan

Mamuscoobydrewbear Mountandrew

We the family of the late Andrew J. Pangelinan would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the second death anniversary of his passage unto eternal life.

The following mass will be offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. every day from December 26, 2010 to January 3, 2011.

Holy Rosary will also be held at Mamu's house in Fina-Sisu, from 7:00 p.m. every night at the same dates.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Undakulu na Si Yu'use Ma'as, Salamat Po and Thank You.

Pres Talung and Family

Leaked cable: Anna Nicole wreaked havoc in Bahamas

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Anna Nicole Smith may have been just a “B-list celebrity,” but she hit the Bahamas like a hurricane, spreading scandals that toppled a string of officials and endangered the whole government, according to newly leaked U.S. diplomatic cables.

The government fell two months after the last cable was written.

“Not since Category 4 Hurricane Betsy made landfall in 1965 has one woman done as much damage in Nassau,” reads a colorful November 2006 document, apparently written

by Deputy Chief of Mission D. Brent Hardt. It was released by WikiLeaks and published by the British newspaper The Guardian late Tuesday.

“Lying in disarray in her wake are Doctor’s Hospital, the Coroner’s Court, the Department of Immigration, local mega-lawyers Callenders and Co., formerly popular Minister of Immigration Shane Gibson, and possibly Prime Minister Christie’s PLP government,” the diplomat added.

The cables, classified as confidential, described how Smith’s remarkably rapid suc-



AP
In this Feb. 28, 2006, file photo, Anna Nicole Smith, leaves the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington.

cess in gaining permanent residency led to the ouster of Gibson while the alleged bungling of her son’s treatment and death cut short the careers of several lesser officials while energizing the political opposition and the press.

The last cable was dated March 2007, two months before the Progressive Labor Party lost an election despite a strong local economy. It noted that the opposition Free National Movement “has used these scandals to seize the offensive in the run-up to elections.”

The heiress, former Playboy playmate and reality TV star filed for legal residency in the Bahamas on Aug. 11, 2006, according to the cables, and was granted it about a month later, even though the process sometimes takes years and her ownership of a

home—the basis for her application—was in dispute.

The cables note that Gibson, who approved the application, was hit by allegations he had received a \$10,000 check and a \$25,000 watch from Smith, who also allegedly hired his father to work on her yacht and his mother to baby-sit her children.

Officials denied any wrongdoing, the diplomat wrote, and said “glibly that the Ministry of Immigration should not be criticized for ‘improved efficiencies in government for which it deserves praise.’”

Gibson finally resigned in February 2007 after a local newspaper published photographs of Gibson embracing Smith in her bed.

The diplomat said that before Smith arrived, Gibson was popular for tough anti-immigrant policies.

“The Anna Nicole scandal has recast Gibson as puppet of the privileged rather than defender of the common people of The Bahamas.”

Gibson did not reply to a request for comment.

Several local hospital and coroner’s office officials also were removed following allegations of inefficiency or cover-ups in the death of her son Daniel.

Smith herself died in February 2007 at a Florida hotel and is buried in the Bahamas next to her 20-year-old son.

In October 2010, a boyfriend and two doctors accused of enabling Smith’s prescription drug use were acquitted of most drug charges. But Howard K. Stern, Smith’s boyfriend-lawyer, and Dr. Khristine Eroshevich, her psychiatrist, were convicted of conspiring to get her painkillers and sedatives.

Jamie Foxx: Daughter helped my music career

NEW YORK (AP)—Call her the guardian angel for Jamie Foxx’s music career.

The Oscar and Grammy winner said Tuesday his 16-year-old daughter, Corinne, gave him the best advice when he began recording music.

“When I first started I was doing this little slow music, you know, just R&B ... and my daughter walked in and said, ‘What you doing?’ I said, ‘I’m working on the album.’ She

said, ‘I hope you don’t put that on there because you going to put everybody to sleep,’” Foxx said.

His daughter told him reach out to younger artists to aid in his music career. And that’s exactly what the 43-year-old performer did.

In 2005 Foxx released “Unpredictable,” a double-platinum album that featured production work and guest appearances from Kanye West, Ludacris and Tank.

He followed that with 2008’s “Intuition,” another platinum CD that featured the Grammy-winning party jam, “Blame It.” And this week Foxx released “Best Night of My Life”; the album has collaborations with top acts like Drake, Justin Timberlake, Rick Ross and T.I.

“A lot of times in order to be successful with music, you have to listen and sometimes allow other people to sort of steer you in the right direction,” Foxx said.

cigarette. Those were the two main things I had to learn,” Hailee says proudly.

Actors and directors

have to make all kinds of

decisions on how a role should be played, from accents to wardrobe.

Some choices are agonizing and some just happen.

Jeff Bridges plays Rooster Cogburn in the updated version of “True Grit,” a role made famous by John Wayne.

When Wayne played the role back in 1969, he wore a patch over his left eye. Bridges wears it over his right eye.

Surely there was significance to that decision. Or was there?

“No,” says Bridges. “I put it on the right eye. It felt good. I put it on the left eye — not so good. Put it on the right eye. We went back and forth like that.”

The patch was an issue for other reasons.

“Sometimes I would forget to put it down for the scene. I’d be very pleased with the take and I’d say, ‘What do you think, guys?’” Bridges says.

They’d say it was good, but it would work better if he’d remembered to put on the patch.

Even movie stars aren’t immune to the power of “Twilight.” Elle Fanning, 12-year-old sister of Dakota Fanning, is a huge fan.

In the new Sophia Coppola film “Somewhere,” Elle has a scene where her character’s trying to explain the “Twilight” story to her father (played by Stephen Dorff). I ask Elle if that was something she improvised.

“No. Sophia wrote that back when it was just the books that were so popular,” Elle says.

Her sister starred in the second and third “Twilight” movies, but Elle never visited the set. She did get to attend the grand opening of “The Twilight Saga: New Moon” and was excited to see all the stars.

That leads to the obvious question: Team Jacob or Team Edward?

“I’m Team Volturi,” Elle says with a smile.

For those of you not up on “Twilight,” the Volturi are a group of pretty nasty vampires. Dakota plays Jane, a member of that group.

Rick Bentley is a regular guy who, as The Fresno Bee’s entertainment reporter, rubs elbows with today’s hottest stars. Here’s a peek inside Rick’s Hollywood notebook:



By RICK BENTLEY
MCCLEACHY NEWSPAPERS

After I get past the fact Gwyneth Paltrow’s so much taller than I ever imagined — she’s 5-foot-10 and that doesn’t include the very high heels she’s wearing — the conversation turns to music.

“Country Strong” has her playing a famous country singer who leaves rehab for another tour. Paltrow does all her own singing in the film. If you saw her on the CMA Awards, you know she has a good voice.

I first saw her sing on “Glee.” She looked like she was having a great time as a substitute teacher who ends up filling in for an ailing Mr. Schuester (Matthew Morrison).

“It was the best. I had so much fun,” Paltrow tells me. “It was such a great surprise.”

Paltrow, who lives in England, was not aware of “Glee” before the role was offered to her. Her brother, Jake, told her she had to do it. So she dutifully caught up with past episodes.

“Now I am a total ‘Glee.’ I got so into the show that when I got to the set, I was a little starstruck,” Paltrow says. Keep in mind, this is the same actress who won an Oscar for “Shakespeare in Love.”

Paltrow had such a good time, she’s scheduled to reprise the role in 2011.

Hailee Steinfeld, who plays the feisty Mattie Ross in “True Grit,” got to work with several veteran actors: Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon, Josh Brolin and Barry Pepper.

She learned a lot.

“I think the best advice that the actors have given me is to not take anything too seriously, but to have fun,” Hailee says.

That turned out to be good advice. Fifteen minutes after they met, Brolin had her pinned to the ground with a knife to her throat — all for a scene in the movie.

She already knew how to ride horses, and she picked up other skills as part of the film.

“I learned how to shoot a gun and roll a

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Little Fockers

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Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A birthday party for the twins gives Greg an opportunity to redeem himself after he takes a job that raises the suspicions of his overbearing father-in-law, Jack (Robert De Niro), in this installment of the hit comedy series. Greg (Ben Stiller) and Pam (Teri Polo) have been together for ten years, and now they're the proud parents of two adorable twins. But money is tight, and in order to keep his family afloat, devoted nurse Greg takes a second job working for a drug company.



True Grit

Fri & Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sun through Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25

Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon
Western • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A 14-year-old girl joins an aging U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and another lawman (Matt Damon) in tracking her father's killer into hostile Indian territory in Joel and Ethan Coen's adaptation of Charles Portis' original novel. Sticking more closely to the source material than the 1969 feature adaptation starring Western icon John Wayne, the Coens' True Grit tells the story from the young girl's perspective, and re-teams the celebrated filmmaking duo with their No Country for Old Men screenwriting partner Scott Rudin. Josh Brolin co-stars.



Yogi Bear

Fri & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sun through Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

Justin Timberlake, Dan Aykroyd
Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Hanna-Barbera's beloved picnic basket-stealing bear makes his big-screen debut in this live-action/animated mix children's pic from Ash Brannon, co-director of Surf's Up. The Tooth Fairy writing team of Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia provide the screenplay, which will center around CG Yogi and Boo Boo as they interact with live actors in Jellystone Park.



Tron: Legacy

Fri & Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sun through Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05

Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges
Science, Fiction • Rated PG



Fighter

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sun through Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30

Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale
Drama • Rated R



How Do You Know?

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sun through Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30

Reese Witherspoon, Owen Wilson
Comedy • Rated PG 13



The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Fri & Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sun through Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15

Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

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Small acts of kindness can give hope to those in need

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: From time to time you print letters about random acts of kindness. May I share something that happened to me? On Jan. 30, 2009, my husband and I took our three kids to a restaurant for breakfast to celebrate our twins' fourth birthday. When it was time to pay our bill, the waiter told us that a couple who had been sitting behind us had taken care of our tab.



Dear Abby

What that couple didn't know was that the day before, my doctor had informed me a lump in my neck was probably lymphoma and that he needed to do a biopsy as soon as possible. He had wanted me to meet with a surgeon that morning, but I told him no. It was the twins' birthday, and I didn't want them to associate their birthday with the day Mommy got sick.

What that couple did was more than pay for our meal; it gave me hope. I felt it was a sign that everything would be "taken care of." To pay it forward, we left the waiter a large tip.

I did end up with Hodgkin's disease, but I have been in remission since August 2009.

BLESSED IN WISCONSIN

DEAR BLESSED: Your letter made me smile. Your hope was rewarded and everything WAS "taken care of." And because Hodgkin's lymphoma is a treatable cancer, I hope you will continue to enjoy good health for many decades to come.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a big problem. My father refuses to spend time with me. He is a firefighter and says he has a busy schedule. I understand that. But when he has extra time, he will find anything else to do. I tried talking to him—it was like talking to a brick wall.

My mom has comforted me a lot, but I feel there is something missing in my life. That missing part is my dad. Please help me to figure out how I can make the situation better.

GIRL IN NEED IN BALTIMORE

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR GIRL IN NEED: You have already done as much as you can. It is now up to your mother and/or your grandparents to help your father understand that there is more to being a parent than providing financial support. I hope he gets the message before it's too late—for him, not you.

DEAR ABBY: An odd custom is beginning to surface in my local church. Showers for new brides and new mothers are being announced from the pulpit at Sunday services. All church members are invited to attend, and in one or two instances even told what to bring for gifts.

I have always understood that showers are given by close friends, relatives, associates, etc. Just what is proper procedure for this? How does one respond to these "open" invitations? I have not responded. Am I wrong? Please help.

SOCIALLY NAIVE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SOCIALLY NAIVE: You are not wrong; you are correct. Approach your pastor and ask why this is being done. If the reason is that the bride-to-be or mother-to-be is financially needy, and you would like to contribute, then attend the showers. If not, then treat the announcement as you would any open invitation. If you choose not to attend, you are not obligated to give a gift.

P.S. I agree with you. It is an "odd" custom.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Beatles' Abbey Road crossing now is heritage site



LONDON (AP)—A London zebra-crossing made famous by a Beatles album cover has been listed as a heritage site.

Heritage minister John Penrose says Wednesday the crossing at Abbey Road in north London was listed as a testimony to the international fame of the band.

Every year the crossing draws thousands of visitors, many of whom mimic the Beatles cover photograph in which the band members were shown crossing the road.

The nearby Abbey Road studios were listed as a heritage site in February.

Tourists cross over the zebra crossing in Abbey Road in London, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010.

AP

MTV college network: Sec'y Gates is 'Man of Year'

NEW YORK (AP)—Sorry Justin Bieber, but college students aren't your audience.

MTV's college network, mtvU, has crowned Secretary of Defense Robert Gates as its "Man of the Year."

Gates was given the honor

because he "became a role model for public service, proving that it's possible to work within an institution to impart change," mtvU said in a statement Wednesday.

The network also commended the 67-year-old Republican for

his focus on the youth, gender bias and the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Rapper Nicki Minaj was named "Woman of the Year" for outdoing her male counterparts in the rap field and "calling for an end to homophobia in hip hop."



Gates

'Spider-Man' will resume with new safety measures

NEW YORK (AP)—The curtain will go up again Thursday on "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" after the producers of the accident-plagued Broadway musical agreed to new safety precautions to prevent another fall like the one that left a stuntman seriously injured.

The state Labor Department said it is satisfied the producers of the \$65 million musical have made the necessary adjustments.

Wednesday night's performance was canceled so that the cast and crew could rehearse the new precautions, which include a requirement that a second person ensure that the harnesses used by performers during the

show's high-flying stunts have been put on properly.

The much-anticipated production, teaming "Lion King" creator Julie Taymor with songwriters Bono and The Edge of U2, has had a rocky route to Broadway. Already the most expensive show in Broadway history, it has been plagued by technical glitches, money woes and three other injuries, including a concussion and two broken wrists.

The show has been in previews for a month, and its official Broadway opening has twice been postponed. It is now set for early February.

The fourth accident came Monday night, when Christo-

pher W. Tierney, a stunt double playing Spider-Man, plunged about 30 feet into a stage pit, despite a safety harness that should have prevented the spill. Tierney was scheduled for back surgery Wednesday, his brother Patrick said.

The announcement that Wednesday night's sold-out performance wouldn't take place came just three hours before showtime at the Foxwoods Theatre. Wednesday's matinee performance had been canceled earlier.

"At this point we are satisfied they have put in place the appropriate controls," said Maureen Cox, director of safety and health for the New York State

Department of Labor.

State officials had no authority to close the show but could have disallowed the heart-stopping stunts that make it special. The musical has 38 separate moves in which actors are put in harnesses to go up in the air.

Cox said the investigation is continuing into precisely what went wrong in Tierney's accident and who is to blame. Investigators said they are looking into whether it was caused by equipment failure or human error.

"We're also making sure that the actors and the stagehands know that if everything is not right, they can say, 'We're not going to go,'" Cox said.

Posthumous Jackson album sells 3M units worldwide

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Jackson is the King of Pop, but he's being challenged by the current queens of music.

Taylor Swift's album "Speak Now" is No. 1 on the Billboard 200 albums chart this week, followed by Susan Boyle's "The Gift." Their albums got in the way of Jackson's first posthumous album, "Michael," hitting the top spot.

According to Nielsen SoundScan, "Speak Now" sold 259,000 units and "The Gift" 254,000 units. Jackson's album debuted at No. 3 with 228,000 copies sold.

Though he's not No. 1, Jackson's album sold more than 3 million units worldwide. "Michael" debuted at No. 1 in Germany, Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands. It also made its way to the Top 5 in the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Belgium and Denmark.



AP

In this file CD cover image released by Epic Records, newly completed recordings from Michael Jackson entitled "Michael," is shown. Michael Jackson's first posthumous album, "Michael," shipped more than 3 million units worldwide in its first week out, Epic Records announced Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010.

Bail set for Thurman stalker after rearrest

NEW YORK (AP)—Uma Thurman's stalker has a chance at getting out of jail while he awaits trial on charges of trying to contact her again.

Jack Jordan's lawyers said it's unclear whether he can post the \$250,000 cash bail or \$500,000 bond a Manhattan judge set Wednesday. Jordan had been held without bail since his latest arrest last month at his family's home.

The former psychiatric patient was told not to try to contact the Academy Award-winning actress for five years after his 2008 stalking and harassment conviction. But prosecutors say he called her again on Oct. 29 and Oct. 30.

He has pleaded not guilty to charges including stalking and criminal contempt of court. Prosecutors say the 39-year-old told police the calls were drunken mistakes.

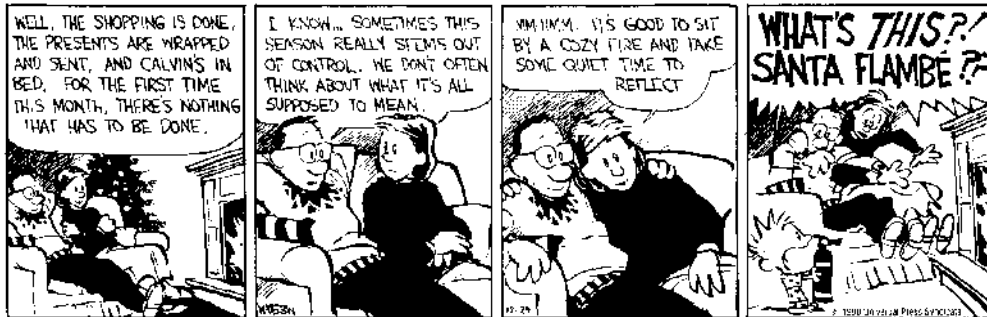
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Height of fashion?

4 "Le Coq —"

7 Examination

12 Fuss

13 Man-mouse link

14 Places in the heart

15 Sports-caster Scully

16 Winter weather factor

18 Mel of baseball lore

19 Opposite of blanco (Sp.)

20 At the home of (Fr.)

22 Keanu's role in "The Matrix"

23 Our heaviest president

27 Feedbag tidbit

29 Major fear

DOWN

31 Topple

34 In two places

35 Japanese emperor

37 Hot tub

38 Rid of rind

39 Multi-purpose truck

41 Wild and crazy

45 Argument

47 Miller Sebastian

48 Sculpted jingler

52 Hr. fraction

53 Where the action is

54 Plead

55 Superlative ending

56 Auto style

57 Mag. staffers

58 Red or Black

21 Of a region

23 November birthstone

24 Lawyers' org.

25 Evergreen type

26 Body art, for short

28 Supplement

30 Fortune

31 Ref

32 Chart format

33 — out a living

36 "That hurts!"

37 Joined by sewing

40 Clan

42 High spots

43 Din

44 Meddler

45 Read bar codes

46 Cribbage score-keepers

48 Existed

49 Anger

50 The Simpsons' neighbor

51 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	L	P	C	A	S	E	M	A	Y	O
S	F	A	A	G	O	G	A	P	E	X
P	A	L	I	S	A	D	E	R	E	T
P	C	P	A	S	P	I	R	I	N	
P	L	A	N	E	T	T	U	T		
H	B	H	I	P	P	A	P	A	L	
O	L	L	A	N	O	W	L	A	M	A
S	T	E	L	A	D	C	H	L	O	T
S	T	E	L	A	D	C	H	L	O	T
C	J	J	R	F	N	T	J	A	M	
O	G	E	E	P	A	L	A	T	I	N
B	L	E	D	E	F	I	C	N	A	M
S	I	O	G	F	E	K	O	P	S	

Yesterday's answer 12-24

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Seacrest, 36; Stephenie Meyer, 37; Ricky Martin, 39; Diedrich Bader, 44

Happy Birthday: The year ahead must be one of due diligence, especially where health and financial matters are concerned. You must ease your stress by making choices that are right for you. Follow the little voice within you if you plan to find the comfort and happiness you desire. Some relationships simply don't last, so move on without regret. Your numbers are 3, 12, 17, 25, 32, 37, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let the hustle and bustle get to you. Chill out and enjoy yuletide cheer with a confident. Love, travel and intrigue are heading your way, bringing about a new beginning that will lead to a brighter future. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Doing something with someone you love will lead to a commitment to one another, concerning the upcoming year. Avoid making an impulsive purchase. Changes you make to your home will add to its festive and entertaining appeal. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Added responsibilities will get you down. Clear your head of anything that is going to interfere with your family and the festivities you have planned. A crush on someone who is off-limits is a waste of time. You can do much better. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Love is in your heart and relationships can be enhanced by the gestures you make. Don't worry about any changes in your professional

life. Now is a time to be thankful for what you have and to trust in your ability to have continued success. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should probably stick close to home. Invite friends or family over to enjoy a little festive cheer. The less running around you do, the easier it will be to get through the next couple of days. Don't make an impulsive move. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Sharing with the people who contribute to your life will allow you to thank them for the help and encouragement you've received. A chat with someone you love will lead to a late-night surprise, making the end of this year very special. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The less aggressive you are, the better the outcome. Don't let unexpected change ruin your plans for the future. Focus on the positive. Delays or problems with neighbors or friends are likely. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get together with people you don't see often enough and enjoy catching up. Short trips, picking up last-minute items and enjoying turning your home into a festive party palace will all get you in the mood for upcoming activities. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An interesting and creative idea will be offered based on the information you share with friends and family you don't get to see very often. Don't feel responsible for someone who puts the blame on everyone else. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can expect to be surprised by what someone does for you. Reflecting on where you have been and what you have done will confirm that you are doing the right thing. Love is on the rise; enjoy the moment. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional issues will surface as you recall what and whom you have gained and lost this past year. A lesson learned will be valuable as you head down a new path. There are plenty of opportunities, so take advantage of what's available. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Changing your mind will confuse the people to whom you are closest and who want the best for you. An explanation will be required and speaking from the heart is the best route to take. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are hardworking, independent and resourceful. You are passionate about your beliefs and your goals. You speak from the heart. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			6	3	8					
		3					4			
	7							1		
7			8		2				1	
8									9	
4			1		6				5	
	9							2		
		7				3				
			3	7	4					

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	6	7	8	5	3	9	2
3	7	5	9	4	2	1	6	8
2	8	9	6	3	1	7	4	5
7	9	2	4	1	8	6	5	3
5	6	8	3	9	7	2	1	4
4	1	3	5	2	6	9	8	7
6	2	4	1	5	3	8	7	9
8	5	1	2	7	9	4	3	6
9	3	7	8	6	4	5	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STOWE, VERMONT

Solution: 9 letters

G	N	I	K	A	T	H	T	A	E	R	B	L	T	T
N	C	A	M	P	S	I	T	E	S	K	C	O	R	M
I	I	N	D	U	S	I	R	Y	P	M	S	O	U	H
B	N	S	I	G	H	T	S	L	P	W	S	C	S	A
M	E	A	N	I	Q	C	E	S	A	E	L	S	T	F
I	C	N	K	U	S	T	T	H	R	R	F	L	E	I
L	S	I	A	E	I	O	S	O	T	M	E	S	I	S
C	N	R	G	N	N	W	T	P	N	U	T	N	P	V
G	R	D	A	E	D	N	O	S	O	I	C	V	E	U
Y	O	R	H	E	E	J	R	P	V	D	O	A	A	G
L	G	U	L	A	N	D	E	A	A	A	A	L	K	G
I	I	S	I	R	A	I	L	R	I	C	I	C	I	
M	U	S	E	U	M	S	L	K	R	S	H	E		
A	G	N	I	K	S	E	G	A	Y	E				
F	L	O	G	T	R	A	Z	O	M	D	S	S		

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Agas, Ben and Jerry's, Breathtaking, Camosites, Climbing, Coaches, Coc., Family, Farm, Festival General Golf, Granite, Hiking, Industry, Lane, Lodges, Maria Von Trapp, Mill, Mozart, Museums, Notch, Park, Peak, Quarry, Resort, Rock, Scenic, Shaws, Shops, Sights, Skiing, Sled, Smugglers, Stadium, Stone Hut, Store, Tour, Town, Trail, Trust, Valleys

Yesterday's Answer: Snow Angel

NOTE: Words of 4 letters or less, including 3-letter words, are not included in the puzzle. Words of 4 letters or less, including 3-letter words, are not included in the puzzle. Words of 4 letters or less, including 3-letter words, are not included in the puzzle.

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Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioners:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER
OF THE PETITION
FOR THE APPOINTMENT
OF LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP
FOR:
LOUISE RUI JUN XU LIAO,
A Minor Child,
by:
GUOHONG LIAO and
WANFEN XU,
Petitioners.

FCD GU Civil
Action No. 10-0581

NOTICE OF
HEARING ON
THE PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT
OF LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of
Petitioners to Petition for the Appointment of
Legal Guardianship for said minor child,
Louise Rui Jun Xu Liao. A Hearing on
Petitioner's request shall be heard on 3rd day
of January, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the CNMI
Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands. Counsel for
Petitioners is Robert Tenorio Torres,
Attorney at Law whose address is
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated this 2nd day of December 2010.

/s/ BERBADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

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WHATZIT Solution: Snap decision

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Tribune

FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009

Fitia! eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAGE

DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGE

\$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's s

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DECISION

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Celtics beat Sixers for 14th straight win



BOSTON (AP)—Ray Allen scored 22 points and Paul Pierce recovered after missing his first seven shots to score 11 in the second half to lead the Boston Celtics to their 14th straight victory, 84-80 over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

Shaquille O'Neal had 13 points and nine rebounds, but he missed two free throws with 1:02 left and Boston holding a two-point lead. Philadelphia had two chances to equalize, but Andre Iguodala slipped and turned the ball over the first time and then had his shot blocked by Kevin Garnett the next.

Allen hit a pair of free throws with 5.6 seconds left to finish it off.

Elton Brand had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Jrue Holiday scored 15 points for Philadelphia, which was coming off a 45-point loss to the Chicago Bulls — its worst in three years.

Spurs 109, Nuggets 103

At San Antonio, Manu Ginobili and Gary Neal scored 22 points apiece as San Antonio beat Denver—playing without All-Star Carmelo Anthony because of the death of his sister—for its 10th straight victory.

The Spurs improved their NBA-best record to 25 wins from 28 games. It ranks among the 11 best starts to a season in NBA history.

Ty Lawson and J.R. Smith led the Nuggets with 22 points apiece, and Kenyon Martin played 17 minutes in his season debut after missing the first 26 games while recovering from knee surgery.

Jazz 112, Timberwolves 107

At Minneapolis, Al Jefferson had 23 points, nine rebounds and seven blocks against his former team and Utah coach Jerry Sloan moved into sole possession of third place on the career victories list.

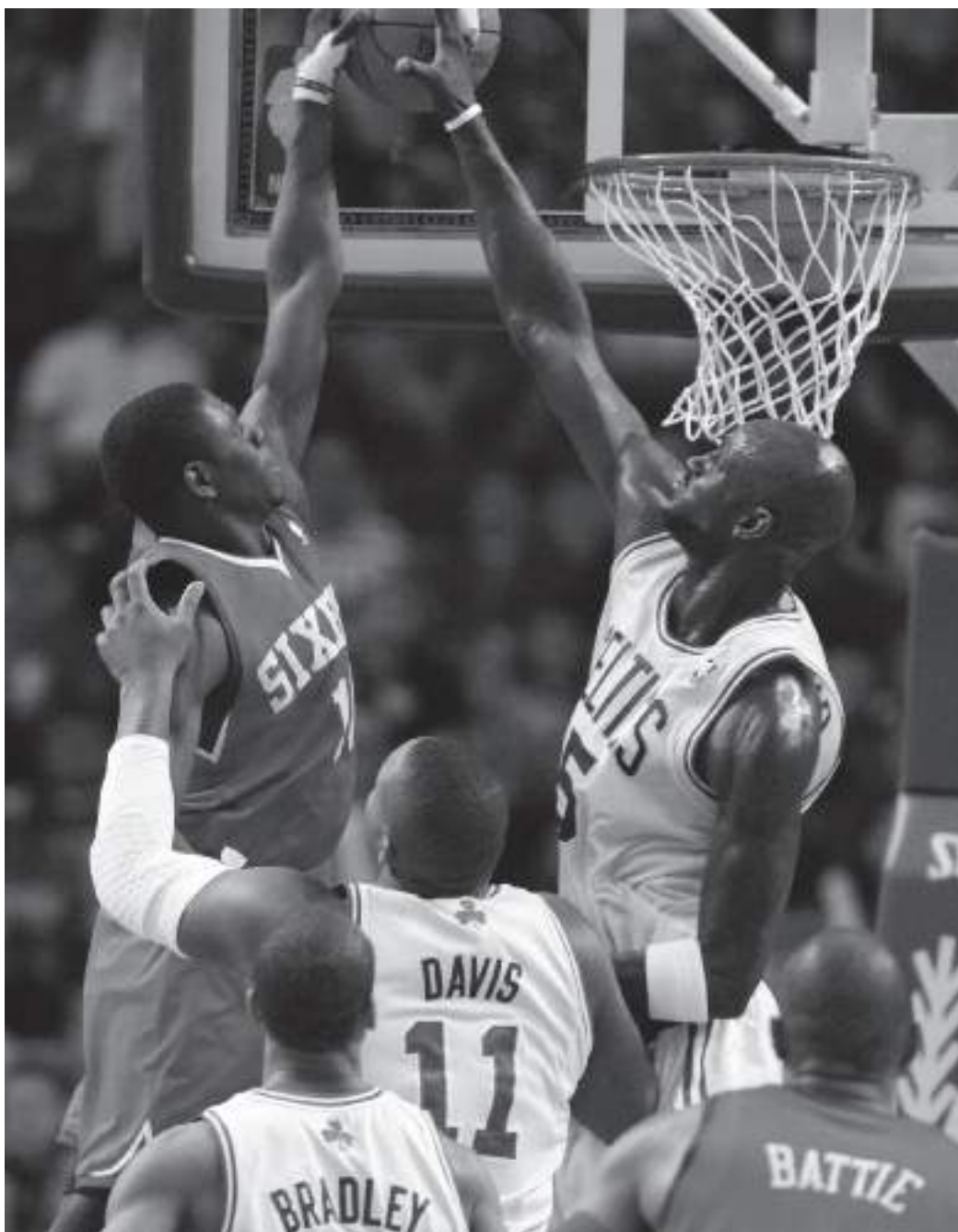
Jefferson scored 21 points in the second half and Deron Williams added 25 points, seven assists and seven rebounds for the Jazz, who came back from 12 points down at the start of the fourth quarter.

Sloan picked up victory No. 1,211, moving past Pat Riley into sole possession of third place on the career list. Only Don Nelson (1,335) and Lenny Wilkens (1,332) have more victories in NBA history.

Kevin Love had 25 points and 19 rebounds and Michael Beasley added 24 points and 10 rebounds for Minnesota. The Timberwolves have lost seven straight games.

Bulls 87, Wizards 80

At Washington, Carlos Boozer scored 30 points and Derrick Rose added 25 to help Chicago beat the Wizards for its ninth victory in 10 games.



Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett, top right, blocks a shot by Philadelphia 76ers' Jrue Holiday, top left, in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010, in Boston.

Boozer also had 10 rebounds and a season-high seven assists to go with his second 30-point performance this season. The Bulls have won nine of 12 since Boozer returned after missing the first 15 games with a broken hand.

Knicks 112, Thunder 98

At New York, Amare Stoudemire scored 23 points and Wilson Chandler added 21 as New York ran past Oklahoma City to end a three-game losing streak.

Rookie Landry Fields had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks.

In a game featuring the NBA's top two scorers, Stoudemire nearly matched league leader Kevin Durant, who finished with 26. But Stoudemire had far more help, with the Knicks putting six players in double figures. Raymond Felton added 12 points and 10 assists.

Pistons 115, Raptors 93

At Toronto, Richard Hamilton scored a season-high 35 points, Rodney Stuckey had 21 and Detroit beat Toronto to end a five-game losing streak against the Raptors.

The Pistons fell one point shy of matching a season high and ended an eight-game road skid, winning away from home for the first time since Nov. 14 at Sacramento.

Charlie Villanueva had 18 points and former Raptors star Tracy McGrady added a season-high 17 for the Pistons. Leandro Barbosa had 21 points for Toronto.

Hawks 98, Cavaliers 84

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 23 points in his best game since his return from elbow surgery to lead Atlanta past Antawn Jamison and Cleveland.

Jamison had 23 points but Atlanta was stronger with its balanced attack in its eighth straight home victory. Al Horford had 18 points, Marvin Williams added 17 and Josh Smith had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Hawks. Mo Williams had 18 points for Cleveland. The Cavaliers have lost 12 straight on the road and 12 of 13 overall.

Rockets 97, Clippers 92

At Los Angeles, Kevin Martin scored 28 points, including four free throws in the final 16 seconds, and Houston nearly blew an 18-point lead in the second half before holding on for its fourth straight victory.

Luis Scola added 22 points and Shane Battier had 13 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for the Rockets, who never trailed and recorded their third wire-to-wire victory—one more than they had all of last season.

Hornets 105, Nets 91

At New Orleans, Emeka Okafor had 21 points and 10 rebounds, Chris Paul added 12 points and 14 assists as New Orleans shot 53.9 percent and made eight of 16 3-point attempts.

David West and Marcus Thornton each scored 18 points and Marco Belinelli had 14 for the Hornets.

Brown is out as Bobcats coach; Silas takes over

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—After a miserable start to the season in which he took shots at his players and himself, Larry Brown is out as coach of the Charlotte Bobcats in another messy exit in his well-traveled career.

Former Charlotte Hornets coach Paul Silas, who has been out of the league since 2005, will direct the team for the rest of the season on an interim basis.

Owner Michael Jordan announced Brown's departure in a news release Wednesday, a day after the Bobcats were outscored 31-12 in the fourth quarter in their fourth straight loss.

"I met with Coach Brown two weeks ago about the team's performance and what we could do to improve it," Jordan said. "We met again this morning after practice. The team has clearly not lived up to either of our expectations and we both agreed that a change was necessary."

The 70-year-old Brown, a Hall of Fame coach who was in the third season of his 13th professional and college head coaching job, had been upset

with the makeup and effort of his team for weeks. The Bobcats (9-19) had lost three games by 31 or more points in 10 days before Tuesday's fourth-quarter meltdown against Oklahoma City.

Brown, whose contract runs through the end of the 2011-12 season, didn't immediately return a message on his cell phone seeking comment. But his agent, Joe Glass, said Brown will be back on the bench soon.

"Larry is going to coach again," Glass said. "He's got a plenty of strength and energy."

Glass and Bobcats general manager Rod Higgins declined to discuss details of any buy-out or if Brown will be paid through the end of his original four-year contract.

Brown leaves with an 88-108 mark with the Bobcats. His 1,327 victories in the ABA and NBA are nine shy of supplanting Don Nelson for the most all-time.

"This was a difficult decision for both of us, but one that needed to be made," Jordan said. "I want to thank Larry for everything he has done for our

team. He has played a key role in this organization's development including coaching us to our first-ever playoff appearance last season."

Higgins said they didn't contact the 67-year-old Silas until late Wednesday afternoon and "both sides were OK" with Silas getting an interim label.

"It allows us an opportunity to see how Paul does and see how he can get our team to a certain level," Higgins said. "Paul has been out of it for a while."

Silas was a popular figure when he coached the Hornets through their move to New Orleans in 2002. He later was LeBron James' first coach in Cleveland and has a home in the Charlotte area.

Silas, who didn't immediately return phone messages seeking comment, was busy working to put together a staff before Thursday's practice. The Bobcats are off until Monday when they host Detroit.

He'll take over a team that's in disarray, but yet sat only 2 1/2 games out of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference before Wednesday's games.

"Could I be naive? Maybe, but I firmly believe that this team has an opportunity to get back on track," Higgins said.

It won't be with Brown, who has followed a familiar script in a career that includes quick turnarounds and then usually ugly divorces.

The only coach to win NBA and NCAA titles had been out of coaching for two years following his dismissal after going 23-59 in his only season in New York in 2005-06 when Jordan hired him to replace Sam Vincent in 2008.

In his record ninth NBA head coaching job, Brown immediately demanded changes and Jordan and Higgins responded with a number of trades that completely rebuilt the team. Behind Gerald Wallace and Stephen Jackson, the Bobcats went 44-38 last season and secured the franchise's first playoff berth.

But after getting swept by Orlando in the first round, the moody Brown started having reservations about returning. He lamented about being away from his wife and young children in suburban Philadelphia.

He stressed that he would only coach for Jordan, and eventually agreed to come back.

However, the offseason included point guard Raymond Felton's departure to New York in free agency and the trade of center Tyson Chandler to Dallas in what amounted to a salary dump to get under the luxury tax threshold.

"I talked to him before the preseason and I could tell he was worried because he lost Chandler and Raymond but that was it," said Knicks President Donnie Walsh, Brown's boss when they were together in Indiana.

"I watched him and he was making up for it and I thought he was doing a great job of coaching during a stretch there. Then the last week or so I don't know what happened."

Despite Jordan's proclamation before the season that, "at the minimum, we should make the playoffs," the Bobcats have struggled all season under a barrage of turnovers and a stagnant offense. Brown was getting increasingly critical of his team and himself in recent weeks.

Patriots take Bills seriously



FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—For the New England Patriots, facing a team that lost its first eight games of the season shouldn't be much of a challenge.

After all, New England has only lost twice all season.

But the Patriots' praise of the Buffalo Bills is more than just the lip service they usually pay to opponents whose record is much worse than their own. That's because the Bills are 4-2 in their past six games and would be 5-1 if Steve Johnson hadn't dropped what would have been a winning touchdown pass in overtime against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"They've won four of the last six games," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Wednesday before practice for Sunday's matchup in Buffalo. "There're not a lot of teams that are doing better than that over the last six weeks in the National Football League. Not a lot."

Only six have done better—New England, San Diego, Atlanta, Chicago, New Orleans and Philadelphia.

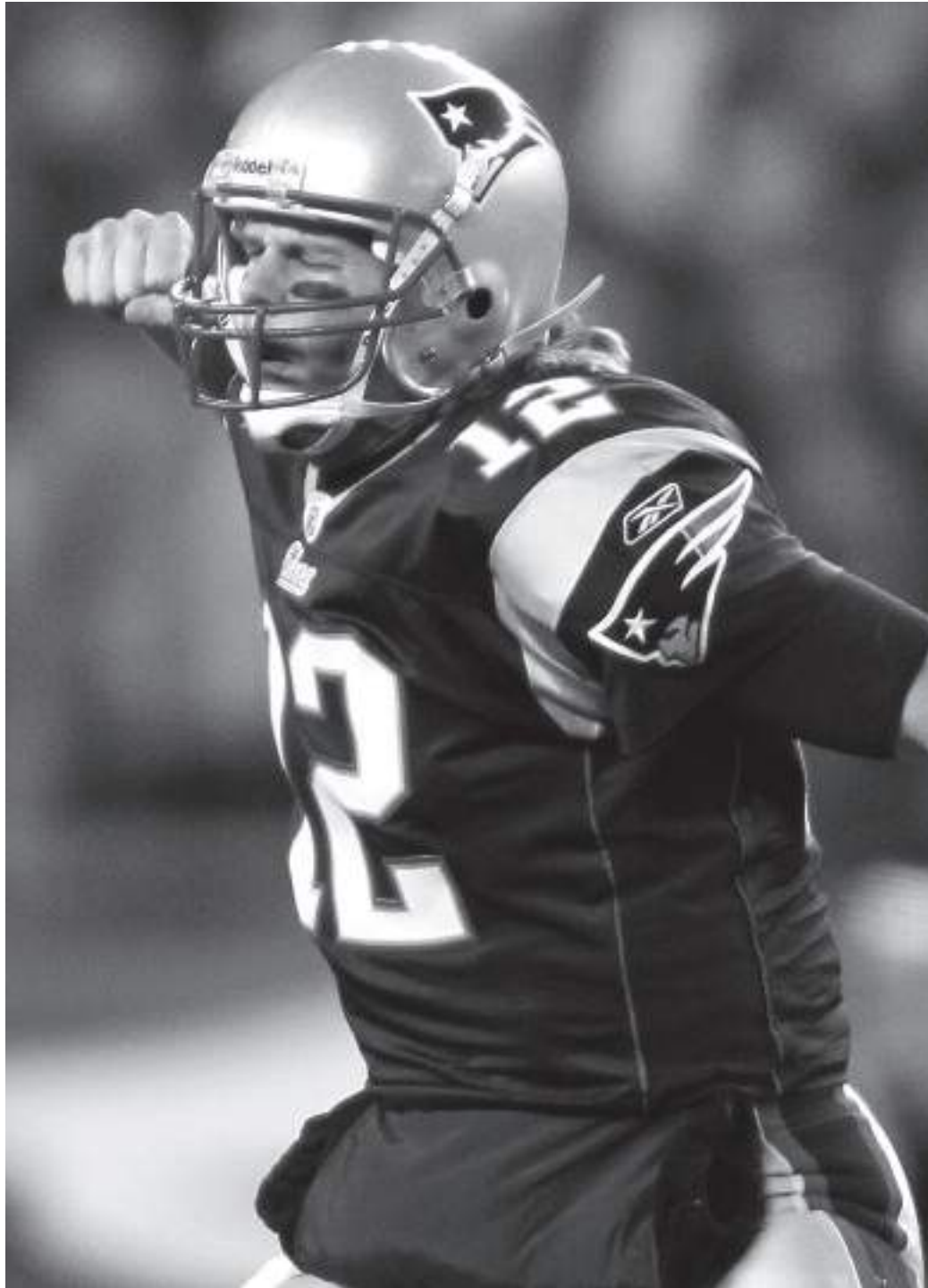
New England (12-2) and Buffalo (4-10) met in the third game of the season when the Patriots were coming off a 28-14 loss to the New York Jets. The Patriots led the Bills just 24-23 going into the final two minutes of the third quarter before winning 38-30.

Ryan Fitzpatrick made his first start of the season in that game for the Bills and threw two touchdown passes and two interceptions.

"He looked pretty good in that game," Belichick said, "but certainly with the extra playing time that he's had throughout the season, he looks pretty solid back there."

Fitzpatrick has started all 11 games since then and shown improvement with 21 touchdown passes and 10 interceptions in that stretch.

"Some of the games ... they



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady celebrates a touchdown against the Green Bay Packers during the first quarter of a NFL football game at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass. Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010.

get ahead and he does a good job of managing the game and doing what he needs to do in the fourth quarter," Belichick said, "not trying to score 60 points, just trying to win a game."

Last Sunday, the Bills led the Miami Dolphins 17-7 after three quarters and won 17-14. The week before, they took

a 10-6 lead into the second half and beat the Cleveland Browns 13-6.

The Bills' resurgence actually began before their current six-game run. In the three games before that, they lost in overtime on the road to Baltimore and Kansas City and by three points to Chicago, three of the

top teams in the NFL.

A win over the Patriots, tied for the NFL's best record with Atlanta, would be a good consolation prize in the Bills' 11th straight season without a playoff berth.

"This game also means everything to us," Patriots cornerback Kyle Arrington said.

NFL BRIEFS

Brady passes Vick to top final fan Pro Bowl voting

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Brady has overtaken Michael Vick to lead all players in the final fan voting for the Pro Bowl. The New England Patriots quarterback had nearly 1.9 million votes when balloting ended Monday. The NFL said Wednesday that Vick topped the NFC with more than 1.5 million. Almost 100 million votes were cast online and via mobile phones. Fans account for one-third of the selection process. Players and coaches vote Wednesday and Thursday. The 43-man rosters will be announced Tuesday. Players leading their position voting include Houston Texans running back Arian Foster and wide receiver Andre Johnson, Pittsburgh Steelers strong safety Troy Polamalu and Indianapolis Colts defensive end

Dwight Freeney.

NFL releases workplace conduct update

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL sent a workplace conduct update to its teams Wednesday in which Commissioner Roger Goodell emphasizes the effect improper behavior can have on others. The memo is a reminder of the league's belief that "all employees and associates of the NFL have the right to work in a positive environment" free from all forms of harassment, intimidation and discrimination. In response to an incident at the New York Jets' training facility in September after which female reporter Ines Sainz of TV Azteca said she felt uncomfortable in the team's locker room, the team developed a workplace conduct program, underwritten by owner Woody Johnson. Wednesday's league memo is a follow-up on that episode.

"We win this game, we win the division so this is what we've worked for all season long."

A victory would clinch home-field advantage throughout the playoffs for the Patriots. A loss and a Jets win over the Bears would leave the AFC East title undecided until the final week of the regular season with New England still in jeopardy of finishing with only a wild-card spot.

"Like I say after every loss," linebacker Jerod Mayo said, "as long as we learn something from it and it doesn't repeat itself, it's worth it."

The Patriots have learned plenty from their last loss, 34-14 at Cleveland. Since then, they've won all six games while scoring an average of 37.8 points.

"Cleveland was a wakeup call for us," nose tackle Vince Wilfork said. "They put it to us. We had a gut check. I don't think there is one guy who left that game happy with anything he did that day. And I think we came together as a team and started putting more emphasis on little things."

"It's not the big things. It's all about the little things because the little things take care of the

big things in the end. Ever since then I think we've just been focused in and one of our goals has been finishing" games.

They did it last Sunday night in a 31-27 win over Green Bay when Wilfork recovered quarterback Matt Flynn's fumble on the Patriots 15-yard line on the final play, ending the Packers' hopes.

"We've been fortunate enough to play well down the stretch even though we probably bent a little bit during the game," Mayo said. "I think it might be mental toughness. We've been talking about that all year."

The Bills have shown that, too, with nine of their games decided by eight points or fewer.

Still, Buffalo did lose its first eight games and has lost 14 straight against New England.

But a letdown could force the Patriots into a must-win situation a week later against Miami if they're to get a first-round playoff bye. So they're not likely to look past the Bills.

"Any team wants to control their own fate," tight end Alge Crumpler said, "so getting this win would be great."

FLORHAM PARK, N.J.

(AP)—New York Jets coach Rex Ryan says it's a "personal matter" and declined to talk about a "foot-fetish" report posted by the sports website Deadspin that show four videos of a woman who bears a close resemblance to Ryan's wife, Michelle.

The videos show a woman displaying her toes to an off-screen cameraman who, in one video, sounds a lot like the coach. The two are having an intimate chat about her feet.

During his news conference Wednesday, Ryan declined several times to discuss the situation.

"I understand I'm going to get asked this question frontways, sideways, backways, and all this, but it is a personal matter," he said.

Jets' Ryan: Foot-fetish report 'a personal matter'

Asked if the NFL might look into the report, spokesman Greg Aiello said the league also considered it a personal matter.

Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum said in a brief statement that he and owner Woody Johnson met with Ryan and the coach has their "full support."

Like everyone else, they considered it a personal matter.

This isn't the first time the Jets have turned up on Deadspin this season.

In October, the site reported that Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre sent racy text messages and photos to a former game hostess while he was the Jets' quarterback in 2008.

The NFL is still investigating the allegations.

According to Deadspin, the woman in the video goes by the handle "ihaveprettyfeet."

A still photograph from one of the video clips was splashed across the front of the New York Daily News and showed a woman with her feet hanging out of an SUV. She is approached by someone who is not on camera and he tells her that she has "really beautiful feet."

The other videos show the woman sitting on a couch, having a drink, reading a book and sitting on a porch and rubbing her feet.

"My wife's beautiful," Ryan said when asked about his wife.

"We've been married for 23 years. She's awesome."

A few weeks ago, before the Jets played New England, Ryan compared his wife to Giselle Bundchen, who is married to Patriots quarterback Tom Brady. Ryan said he was "also married to a supermodel."

"I don't want to say that I probably shouldn't have done that," Ryan said.

While the Jets have a big game coming up against the Bears in which they can clinch a postseason berth if the win, the focus again is on the team's off-field issues.

"We're going to be ready to play Chicago," Ryan said. "I am ready. This is my job and

I'm focused on the job at hand."

Most players declined comment on the foot-fetish report, but star cornerback Darrelle Revis supported his coach.

"Foot fetish? Whatever," Revis said. "I mean, that's his wife. At the end of the day, that's his wife and he can do whatever he wants with his wife. It's not like he's out committing adultery or anything negative."

Last week, the team suspended an assistant coach indefinitely for tripping a Miami player and ordering inactive players to form a sideline wall.

Sal Alosi, the Jets' strength and conditioning coach, was suspended without pay for the rest of the season, including the

playoffs, and fined an additional \$25,000.

The Jets were investigated by the league in September after a female reporter, Ines Sainz of TV Azteca, said she felt uncomfortable in the team's locker room. The Jets developed a workplace conduct program, underwritten by owner Woody Johnson.

In January, Ryan was fined \$50,000 by the team after he was caught on a cell phone camera flipping his middle finger at a fan during a mixed martial arts competition in Sunrise, Fla. The image of Ryan quickly spread across the Internet and made its way onto the back pages of New York tabloids. He apologized the next day in a statement, calling his actions "stupid and inappropriate."

Man who killed Angels pitcher gets 51 years



SANTA ANA, Calif.

(AP)—A construction worker who killed a promising rookie pitcher for the Los Angeles Angels and two other people in a horrific drunken driving crash said Wednesday he had all but ended his own life that night by getting behind the wheel after drinking.

Andrew Gallo, 24, acknowledged his deadly mistake to the grieving relatives of his victims and said he expected to spend the rest of his life behind bars before a judge sentenced him to 51 years to life in prison.

"I know whatever I say will not change anything or the way you think or feel about me," said Gallo, who faced the judge because he was not permitted to look at the courtroom audience.

"You're right. I am a horrible person, a drunk driver who took your beautiful kids away," he said.

Gallo was convicted in September of three counts of second-degree murder and single counts of drunken driving, hit-and-run driving, and driving under the influence of alcohol and causing great bodily injury.

Judge Richard F. Toohey gave Gallo 15 years to life on each of the murder counts and six additional years for the other crimes.

Prosecutors said Gallo, who was on parole for a felony DUI conviction, had a blood-alcohol level nearly three times the legal limit when he blew through a red light at 65 mph on April 9, 2009, and T-boned the car carrying pitcher Nick Adenhardt and three friends.



Andrew Gallo reacts as he is sentenced to 51 years in prison, in court in Santa Ana, Calif., Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010. At right is his attorney, Jacqueline Goodman.

Also killed were 20-year-old Courtney Stewart and 25-year-old Henry Pearson. A fourth passenger, Jon Wilhite had his spine separated from his skull by the impact and survived.

"Enjoy your life in that cage in which you belong, because you are no longer here on Earth," Wilhite said in a letter to Gallo that was read aloud in court. "I can assure you are headed to a much darker place."

Scores of people attended the hearing, including relatives of the victims who clutched giant, smiling photos of their loved ones. They pleaded with Toohey to sentence Gallo to life.

"I am hollow inside. I will never be the same," said Stewart's mother, Carrie Stewart-Dixon. "I pray to God every day to bring her back."

Adenhardt's family sent a letter saying his parents hoped

the sentence would bring some peace to their dead son, but justice could never be achieved.

"There is no balancing of the scales. There is no justice so long as Mr. Gallo is drawing breath," the letter said.

Prosecutors said Gallo drank beer and shots at three different bars with his stepbrother before driving off in the family minivan. Jurors saw a videotaped interview in which he told police

he didn't remember driving that night and apologized to the victims' families.

Defense attorney Jacqueline Goodman had asked that Gallo be given just one sentence of 15 years to life, saying he never intended to hurt anybody.

"I don't think he should be treated like a cold-blooded killer," she said after the hearing. "I don't think he's irredeemable."

Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said his office has won 49 convictions for drunk driving homicides since 2008. With the holidays approaching, he urged residents to remember this case as they celebrate.

"There's just no good in this, there's just no good in this kind of thing anywhere," he said. "It's all tragic."

Sabathia understands Lee's choice to go to Phils

CONCORD, Calif. (AP)—CC Sabathia hoped to be pitching alongside close pal Cliff Lee again next year, reunited in Yankees pinstripes.

Instead, Lee turned down an extra \$30 million to return to the Philadelphia Phillies with a five-year deal that guarantees him \$120 million. Sabathia, having gone through the free agency process himself just two years ago before landing a \$161 million, seven-year contract from New York, wasn't about to beg or bug baseball's biggest offseason prize.

As a father of four children ages 7 and under, Sabathia fully understands making a decision based on family, what feels right for the future and loyalty. In fact, the left-handed ace—fully recovered from recent right knee surgery—is back home in his native Bay Area for a whirlwind week of goodwill events to help his downtrodden hometown of Vallejo as part of his "CC's Christmas Caravan."

"I'm excited for him," Sabathia said Wednesday, while entertaining some 20 needy and troubled teens as they purchased clothes, shoes and athletic gear through his PitCCh In Founda-

tion and later went to lunch. "As part of the Yankee family and organization I'm disappointed. As a family friend, I'm happy he's in the place he wanted to be. You have to do what makes you happy and what's best for your family. It's a long time. Five years is a long time, seven years is a long time."

For years now, Sabathia has been giving back in the very place he grew up, including refurbishing his former Little League field and his projects this week. On Thursday, he and wife, Amber, and his mother, Margie, will visit a Victorian home in Vallejo they have helped make over. It serves as a clean and sober living environment for women recovering from alcohol or drug addiction.

While Sabathia now spends much of his time in New Jersey, he still has a home in nearby Fairfield.

"I grew up here. It's just a really tight, close-knit community," said Sabathia, taking a short break from signing baseballs and posing for photos. "A lot of people have family roots there, and I'm one of them. I just feel like any chance I get to

do anything I can for the kids, I'm there for them."

He helped 17-year-old Travis Smith-Fox, who is working to finish his GED, pick out a pair of charcoal gray shoes to wear for skateboarding. Each teen had \$250 to spend in the form of "PitCCh In Bucks."

"I know they don't have my size in here," quipped Sabathia, who wears size-15 shoes.

Early next week, Sabathia and family are headed on a Hawaiian holiday to truly relax.

His mom has been happy to have him home for a quick trip. "Home is so dear to his heart," she said. "He's so serious about it. He loves it."

After going 21-7 and finishing third in AL Cy Young Award voting, Sabathia had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee in late October to repair a partially torn meniscus, the same procedure he had in 2006 when still pitching alongside Lee in Cleveland.

"I'm feeling good," Sabathia said. "I wasn't really worried about the surgery because I had it before. It was just swelling up on me after starts during the year, just achy pain that affected

me while I was pitching."

Sabathia has lost 15 pounds from his 6-foot-7 frame through a tough offseason training program of cardiovascular workouts and weight training. His knee recovered in just less than a month after the procedure, so he is well into his full exercise program and playing light catch.

He hopes to lose an additional 15 pounds before the season starts.

"I'm turning 30 this year, getting a little older," he said, chuckling. "Hopefully it will take some pressure off my knee and extend my career."

Sabathia spoke to Lee several times during the free agency process and again after Lee's decision. The two plan to go fishing during spring training.

"Just knowing what it's like to go through that, you don't want somebody calling you all the time," Sabathia said. "He knew what the Yankees could offer and what New York would bring and that I loved it over there. We're pretty close. I didn't want to keep bugging him with it. Everybody was like, 'Did you make a pitch?' For what?"

MLB BRIEFS

Brewers add Green, finalize deal with Counsell

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Brewers have finalized infielder Craig Counsell's \$1.4 million contract and also reached an \$875,000, one-year agreement with right-hander Sean Green. The 31-year-old Green spent most of last season on the disabled list with a right intercostal muscle strain. He was recalled by the New York Mets Sept. 6 and did not get a decision in 11 relief appearances, compiling a 3.86 ERA. He has a career record of 10-11 with a 4.36 ERA in 250 appearances during five seasons with Seattle and New York.

The 40-year-old Counsell hit .250 with two homers and 21 RBIs in 102 games last season.

Pirates designate RHP Martinez for assignment

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Right-hander Joe Martinez has been designated for assignment, creating room for the Pittsburgh Pirates to add right-hander Kevin Correia to their 40-man roster. Martinez had no record and a

3.12 ERA in five games with Pittsburgh after going 0-1 with a 4.91 ERA in four games for San Francisco last season. The Pirates also have invited non-roster pitchers Rudy Owens, Justin Wilson and Tyler Yates and first baseman Jeff Clement to major league spring training.

Seattle ships C Rob Johnson to San Diego

SEATTLE (AP)—The Seattle Mariners have traded catcher Rob Johnson to the San Diego Padres for a player to be named later or cash considerations. Seattle and San Diego made the deal on Tuesday. Johnson had been designated for assignment by the Mariners on Dec. 13 after the Mariners signed designated hitter Jack Cust and needed a spot on the 40-man roster. Johnson was Seattle's opening day starter behind the plate in 2010 but his struggles at the plate eventually led to his demotion to Triple-A Tacoma. The 28-year-old Johnson played in 61 games last season with Seattle, but hit just .191. He also struggled with an American League-high nine passed balls in less than a half-season.

11 teams confirmed for Christmas cage tourney

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Eleven teams have confirmed their participation in the inaugural IT&E Christmas Basketball Tournament set from Dec. 27 to 30 at the Garapan Basketball Court. The Garapan Rollers Club will be hosting the four-day competition and its head coach Joe Diaz said six teams have already confirmed their par-

ticipation in the U15 division, while five teams are sure to play in the U12 age group. Diaz said Torchbearers and Hopwood Junior High School will be joining his Rollers A, Rollers B, Rollers C, and Rollers D squads in the U15 division. Expected to see action in the U12 division, meanwhile, are the Rollers A, Rollers B, Rollers C, and Roll-



Diaz

ers D teams along with the Torchbearers. Teams from Dandan Village and William S. Reyes Elementary School have shown interest in joining the U15 division, while a squad from the Kagman neighborhood watch are waiting in the wings in the U12 age group. IT&E Christmas Basketball Tournament will offer co-ed U12 and U15 divisions

and games are scheduled to take place nightly at the Garapan Basketball Court from 5pm to 8pm. The entrance fee per team is \$100 and each team is permitted to have up to 12 players. The U12 games will be administered with two 16-minute halves, while the U15 division will extend its half periods to 20 minutes apiece. Depending on the turnout, the tourney will incorporate either a round robin or bracket-style format. Playing equip-

ment and drinks will be provided, but Diaz said bringing one's own hydration of choice is always a good idea. After the conclusion of the tournament, trophies will be awarded to the top two teams in each division, as well as, a

team sportsmanship award. In addition, most valuable players will be recognized and other prizes will also be awarded such as basketballs and sports-related accessories. For more information, contact Diaz at 788-2163.

ZAPANTA

From Page 36

Gloria Omechelang had the best at 214—but could not sustain her momentum tallying 168, 126, and 169, in the last three games for an average of 162.25 pinfalls per game. The race for the December crown was also close, as only five pinfalls separated Manacop and runner-up Percy Omechelang. Manacop collected 856 pinfalls, showing consistency in his first three games (255, 206, and 235 pinfalls) before closing out with 160 in Game 4 for an average of 214 pinfalls per game. Omechelang had the highest score in Game 1 with 268 pinfalls and then logged 201, 192, and 190 in the last three games for a four-game total of

851 and an average of 212.75 per game. November winner Alex Castro settled for third place with 754 pinfalls (220, 219, 193, and 122). **Three in a row for Aldan** In the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes, A.J. Aldan made it three in a row after topping last Sunday's roll-off. Aldan carded a four-game total of 641 pinfalls and average of 160.25 per game after drilling 126, 171, 202, and 142. He won by 44 pinfalls against Marion McKenzie (597). Leeanne Yarobwemal completed the Top 3 with her four-game total of 552 pinfalls. The December roll-off win gave Aldan his second longest streak. This year, had won the youth monthly tournament four straight times or from May to August.

MP

From Page 36

paving the way for our men's and competitive boys teams' rise to football champions this past season. We are very proud of our players, as they persevered from hard training and excellent teamwork," MPU officer Vickie Izuka said. "Our MPU Team also includes our volunteer coaches, managers, organizers, officers, parents, spouses, and families, as they too contributed in key ways to the teams' successes. We greatly appreciate their spirit of teamwork, cooperation, enthusiasm, and pride that they have all helped build and make MPU the unified club it has become today," Izuka added. For MP United, everything fell into places since the club was founded and it wanted to thank all those contributed to the team's success through the years These include MP United's primary sponsor since Day

1—IT&E—and Knecht, who is now based in the mainland after formulating a vision and showing leadership that set the foundation for the club. MP United also acknowledged Garapan Elementary School and the Department of Parks and Recreation for sponsoring its home fields since the club's creation; Dr. Norma Ada and her support for developing MPU's U14 girls team; and NMIFA for giving MPU and its players the chance to grow and develop, as an organized club.

Cohesion

MP United's boys U14 division team was the championship of both the spring and fall seasons of NMIFA's youth league and the club owed much of its triumph to its cohesive squad. "These boys have practiced and/or played together for the past five seasons so they have a good rapport on and off the field," team manager Betty Johnson said. "The team became more of a cohesive group, with the combi-

nation of the two previous MP United U13 boys teams. Their skills continue to develop, as they practice together often. Additionally, the more cohesive the group is, the better the communication is, particularly on the field. This group has a keen understanding of the word team, as each player knows it takes the entire team to make a goal happen.

Experience, chemistry, and leadership

As for the boys U18 team, coach Kirk Schuler attributed their successes to three factors: experience, chemistry, and leadership. "As I understand it, MPU is one of the oldest clubs in the league. We have several players in the 14s, 18s, and men's league that have been with the club several years, which has enabled the players to build chemistry together," Schuler said. "MPU has been able to encourage development and camaraderie between age divisions by practicing together [14s

and 18s in particular], encouraging players to play in multiple leagues [18s and men's in particular], and enlisting players as coaches for younger divisions," Schuler added. **More development** Despite its 2010 success, MP United vowed not to rest on its laurels. "Our young players all got stronger and better, as they developed into solid players. The team as a whole got better and more organized. 2011 will be a year to start developing more young players. We hope to bring in the U18 players that are ready and start with their training at a higher level. We hope to keep as many members of the men's team as possible, but building some young players will be our priority," MP United men's player-coach Nick Swaim said. "In 2011, MPU will work hard to defend its championship titles in the CNMI and continue to capitalize on new opportunities and challenges for the entire MPU Team," Izuka added.

TOC

From Page 36

of wisdom to everyone who played with him, including myself," Babauta said. "I know that Father Manny played the Tournament of Champions and NMC Foundation Open every year and makes it point that he supports other community efforts for beautification or education fundraiser. The last time that I saw Fr. Manny was during the Docomo Golf Tournament, just a month after TOC last September. He smiled at me and said, 'keep up the great work Ben.' I will remember Father Manny as one

of most respected men here; he was compassionate, had a great sense of humor, very patient, had good work-life balance, and of course, enjoyed the pleasure of playing golf with anyone. He will be missed a lot by many," Babauta added. Two other golf associations on Saipan—the Refaluwasch Golf Association and Fil-Taga—had a lot of good words for Father Manny, who supported their respective tournaments. "Father Manny is no stranger to RGA and all other clubs. I've known father as an avid and fast golfer. He played charity tournaments throughout the CNMI and his presence on golf courses lifts the spirit of every golfer.

It was very sad to learn about father Manny's passing. Thus, he's spirit will live to play the game he love, supporting fundraisers," RGA outgoing president Jordon Kosam said. "I enjoyed his presence and considered him as a blessing to all golfers. I believe Father Manny is the lone priest with golf passion in our community. His passing is a great loss to the CNMI and moreover the golf community. God bless his soul and may he continue to shine his blessings upon all, especially our golfers," Kosam added. Like the TOC, Fil-Taga, where Corcuera was a member, also hopes to hold a tournament for the departed priest.

"He was a very good golfer and very active member Fil-Taga. He was once named most improved golfer with his consistency on his tee shots. Fil-Taga is mourning and extends our condolences to his family," Fil-Taga's Ted Malaran said. "I will be calling on a board meeting to discuss if we could put up a tournament in his honor. Our Golfer of the Year will be held on Jan. 16, 2011, of which he was one of the qualifiers, so perhaps we can put up an open tour for that day in his honor," Malaran added. Corcuera won Fil-Taga's August Ace and two months later, he left Saipan to seek medical assistance in the Philippines.

MACARANAS


From Page 36

Sonoda, Brad, Harold, and Andre Calubid, Alisaundre Moralos, Chris Kim, Lu, Jack Hayes, Clarence DeVera, Wilcox, Elija Caparoso, Josh Iveron, Matt Fliss, and Sagar Shah. Shah won the club championship with his four-day total of 153, six strokes ahead of Matt Fliss' 159. "All year I tried to shoot an under par round at Heartwell

Golf Course, but never did so in 32 rounds. I did have a hole in one on the only hole that I did not birdie for the year, which is the par-3, 140-yard, 9-handicap hole No. 1," Macaranas said. Besides the most birdies, chip-ins, and Sweet 16 qualifiers award, the club also recognized players with the most pars, best gross and net scores, and those who showed significant improvement in the 2010 season.

The most improved player plums went to Ethan Narciso (Flight A boys 13 to 17), Sachi Hamada (Flight A girls 13 to 17), Kim (Flight B boys 11 to 12), Sarah Mink (Flight B girls 11 to 12), Preston Narciso (Flight C boys 7 to 10), and Grace Lu (Flight C girls 7 to 10). Two more special awards were handed out during the year-end event with Maggie Barton getting the Appreciation Award for her 15 years of vol-

unteer service and Paige White, Nick Camferdam, Stephanie Gonzales, Zoe Mascola, and Doug Perkins sharing the Citizenship Award. Long Beach Junior Golf Association runs one of premier grass roots junior golf programs in Southern California with about 400 junior golfers on its stable. It offers classes to individuals age 7 to 17, teaching them how to play the sport, the rules of the game, and golf etiquette.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	23	4	.852	—
New York	17	12	.586	7
Philadelphia	11	18	.379	13
Toronto	10	19	.345	14
New Jersey	9	21	.300	15 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	21	9	.700	—
Atlanta	19	12	.613	2 1/2
Orlando	16	12	.571	4
Charlotte	9	19	.321	11
Washington	7	20	.259	12 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	18	9	.667	—
Indiana	13	14	.481	5
Milwaukee	11	16	.407	7
Detroit	10	19	.345	9
Cleveland	8	21	.276	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	25	3	.893	—
Dallas	23	5	.821	2
New Orleans	17	12	.586	8 1/2
Houston	14	15	.483	11 1/2
Memphis	12	17	.414	13 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	21	9	.700	—
Oklahoma City	20	10	.667	1
Denver	16	11	.593	3 1/2
Portland	15	14	.517	5 1/2
Minnesota	6	24	.200	15

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	21	8	.724	—
Phoenix	13	14	.481	7
Golden State	10	18	.357	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	8	22	.267	13 1/2
Sacramento	5	21	.192	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 98, Cleveland 84

Detroit 115, Toronto 93

Chicago 87, Washington 80

Boston 84, Philadelphia 80

New York 112, Oklahoma City 98

Utah 112, Minnesota 107

New Orleans 105, New Jersey 91

San Antonio 109, Denver 103

Houston 97, L.A. Clippers 92

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	26	230	217	716	27.5

Stoudemire, NYK

Bryant, LAL

Ellis, GOL

Nowitzki, DAL

James, MIA

Rose, CHI

Anthony, DEN

Gordon, LAC

Martin, HOU

Wade, MIA

Westbrook, OKC

Williams, UTA

Howard, ORL

Beasley, MIN

Granger, IND

Bargnani, TOR

Love, MIN

Griffin, LAC

Gay, MEM

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Hilario, DEN	125	202	.619
Odom, LAL	185	317	.584
Horford, ATL	222	385	.577
Howard, ORL	199	352	.565
Okafor, NOR	115	204	.564
Young, PHL	138	245	.563
Millspap, UTA	217	388	.559
Ibaka, OKC	118	212	.557
Warrick, PHX	105	190	.553
McGee, WAS	101	184	.549

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Love, MIN	30	148	320	468	15.6
Howard, ORL	26	90	252	342	13.2
Randolph, MEM	25	111	200	311	12.4
Griffin, LAC	30	114	258	372	12.4
Noah, CHI	24	96	185	281	11.7
Gasol, LAL	29	106	217	323	11.1
Camby, POR	27	88	204	292	10.8
Odom, LAL	29	65	221	286	9.9
Garnett, BOS	27	35	231	266	9.9
Biedrins, GOL	25	82	163	245	9.8

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	20	275	13.8
Nash, PHX	25	255	10.2
Paul, NOR	29	285	9.8
Williams, UTA	30	289	9.6
Felton, NYK	29	263	9.1
Wall, WAS	15	133	8.9
Kidd, DAL	28	246	8.8
Rose, CHI	26	219	8.4
Westbrook, OKC	30	248	8.3
Miller, POR	28	204	7.3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2010 SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run & Pentathlon Winners



Participants in the 2010 Saipan Swim Club Jingle Bell Fun Run get ready for the start of the race at the Garapan Fishing Base last Dec. 8.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A participant in the fun run checks on an inflated Santa Claus while waiting for the awards ceremony at the Kilili Beach Park.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A mother and son walk along Beach Road during the fun run.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youth participants of the Jingle Bell Run pose for a group photo before the start of the race.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two runners sprint along Beach Road.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kento Akimaru won the gold medal in the boys' 9 to 10 division of the pentathlon swim meet held on Dec. 4 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the fun run hold the Saipan Swim Club banner while posing for a group photo.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Victoria Chentsova won the silver medal in the 11 to 12 age group competition of the pentathlon swim meet.



PAGE 31

Saipan Tribune Sports



PAGE 32

36 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MP United's blueprint for success



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of the MP United Football Club pose with their championship trophy and league officials after beating Inter Godfather's in the finals of the 2010 NMIFA Men's FA Cup last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Inset, MP United's U14 player Andrew Johnson tries to keep possession against a Paire defender during their title game in the boys U14 youth league early this month at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wherever MP United founder Sue Knecht is right now, she must be very proud of what the club she helped build has achieved, especially this fall season.

MP United reigned supreme in the boys U18 and 14 divisions of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League early this month and just last Sunday ruled the 2010 NMIFA Men's FA Cup. The club also fielded multiple teams in the U6, U8, and U11 teams in the youth league and in the ongoing recreational and competitive futsal leagues.



All these successes were attributed to the strong ties among the prime movers of the club, its supporters, and players, since Knecht founded MP United more than three years ago.

"In our short three-year history, MP United Football Club exemplified the necessary drive and determination to develop strong teams,

See MP on Page 34

Macaranas feted at Long Beach Junior Golf

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior golfer R.J. Macaranas received three trophies during the yearend party and awards ceremony for the Long Beach Junior Golf Association early this month at the Heartwell Golf Course clubhouse in Long Beach, California.

Macaranas won trophies in the birdies, chip-ins, and Sweet 16 Match Play category, joining more the 50 awardees in the yearend event.

In the birdies category, Macaranas finished second in the

Flight B boys 11 to 12 division with his 44. David Lu recorded 55 to place first, while Leland Wilcox was third with 34.

In the chip-ins, Macaranas tied Lu for first place, as they collected 14 apiece. Brandon Hino earned only five to settle for third place.

The 11-year-old Macaranas received his third trophy of the night after LB-JGA honored the qualifiers in the 2010 LBJGA Match-Play Championship played on Oct. 15, 22, and 29, and Nov. 5.

Joining Macaranas in the Sweet 16 were Bryan Sy, Jack

See MACARANAS on Page 34



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

R.J. Macaranas, right, poses with the runners-up and a tournament official of 2010 Bridgestone Fall Series Championship early this month at the clubhouse of the East Valley Champions Course in Beaumont, California.

Zapanta takes third tiara; First for Manacop



Manacop



Zapanta



Aldan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Gigi Zapanta claimed her third monthly tiara, while Simon Manacop won for the first time, as the two veteran keglers ruled the Saipan Bowling Association-Budweiser December King and Queen of the Lanes tournament.

Zapanta, who won the April and October roll-offs, topped the last monthly tournament of the year after collecting 662 pinfalls in four games last Monday. She bowled in Day 1 of the tournament last Sunday and her score was unbeaten last Monday after eventual runner-up Yho Villavicencio fell seven pinfalls short of passing Za-

panta. Ron Cal rounded out the Top 3 with her four-game total of 649 pinfalls.

After knocking down only 148 pins in Game 1, Zapanta played better in the second game with her 180 pinfalls, then went steady in the last two games with her 171 and 163 for an average of 165.50 pinfalls.

Villavicencio had her best performance in Game 4 with 190 pinfalls. She started with 156 pinfalls in Game 1 and had 149 and 160 in the next two games for an average of 164 per game. Cal recorded the second best score in Game 1 with 186 pinfalls—fourth placer

See ZAPANTA on Page 34

TOC mulls memorial tourney for Father Manny

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Tournament of Champions is aiming to hold a tournament in memory of Father Manny Corcuera, an avid golfer.

"We [TOC] would like to initiate holding a memorial golf classic in honor of Fr. Manny and invite golf clubs to join the tournament dedicated to him," TOC tournament director Ben Babauta said.

Corcuera, the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, passed away on Dec. 19 in Manila, the Phil-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The late Father Manny Corcuera is seen here watching his shot during a fundraising tournament last year.

ippines, due to lung cancer. He was 65.

Besides the church community, golfers also mourned his passing.

"I was very saddened when I heard Father Manny had passed away last Sunday. I know how terrible cancer can be and may happen to anyone. Just happened to a man, who was true to himself, dedicated his life to serve the Lord and loved by many in the CNMI. He knew how to enjoy life as a Catholic priest and advocate golfer. Father Manny played golf almost weekly. He enjoyed golf and made it his favorite leisure, and at the same time shared words

See TOC on Page 34